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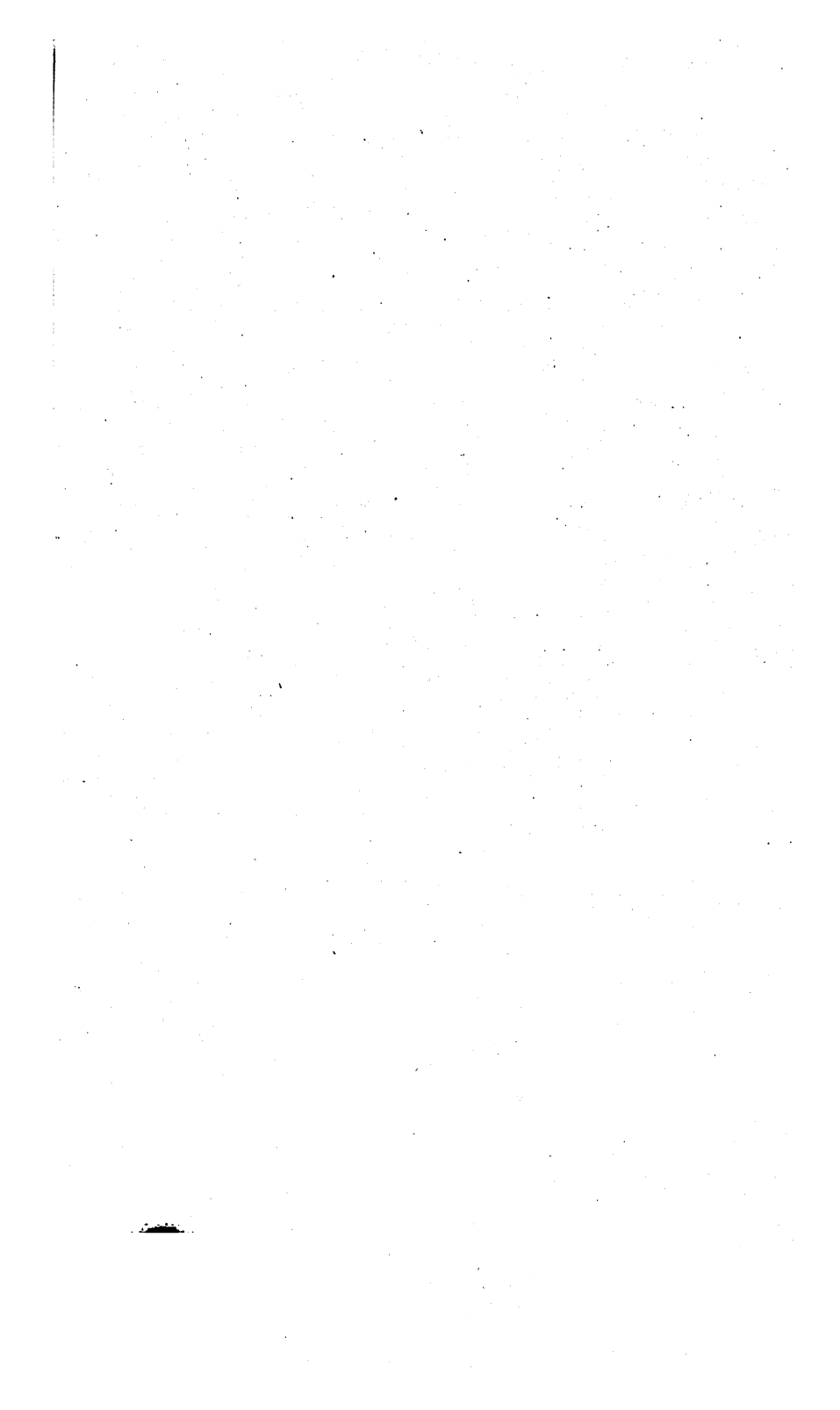
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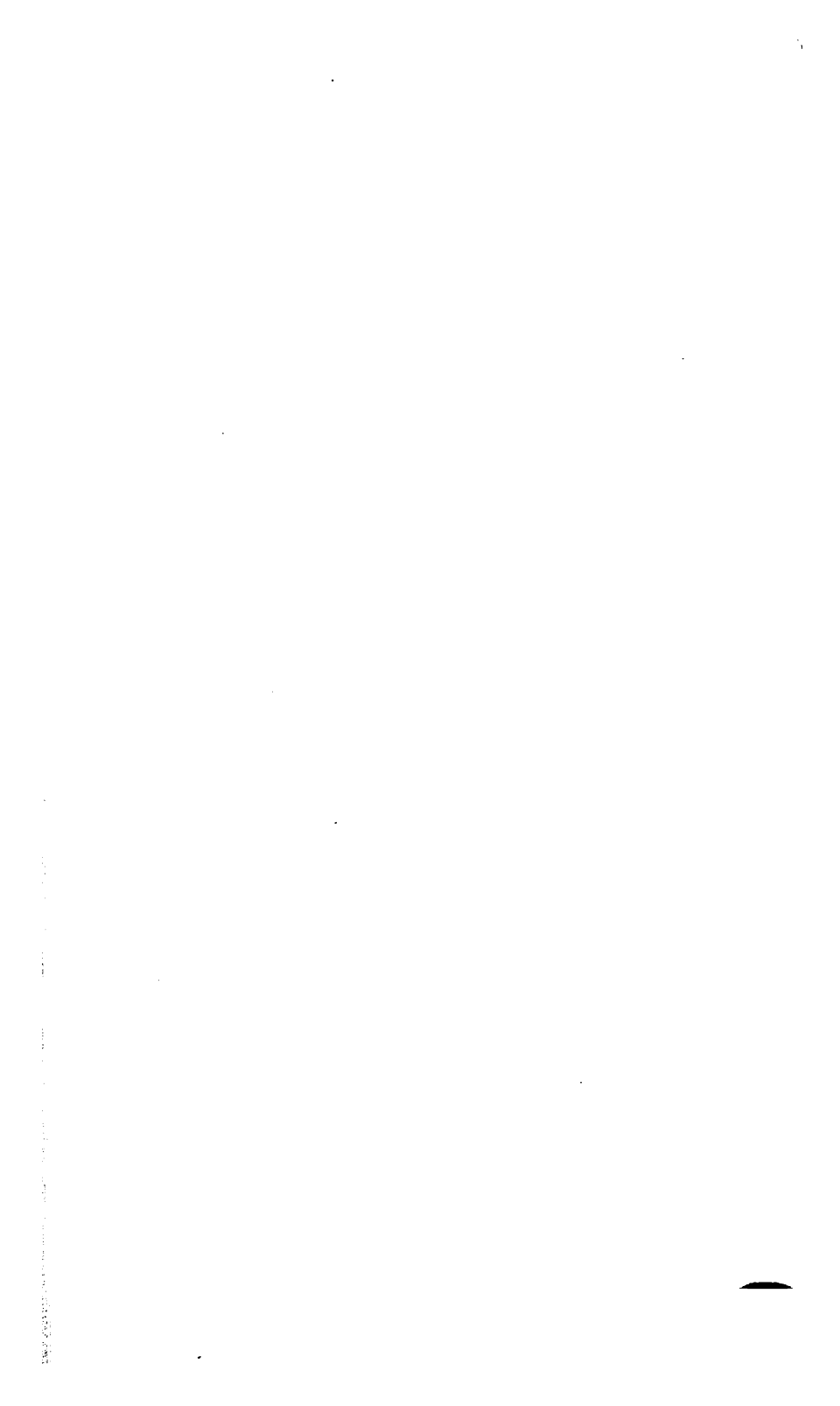
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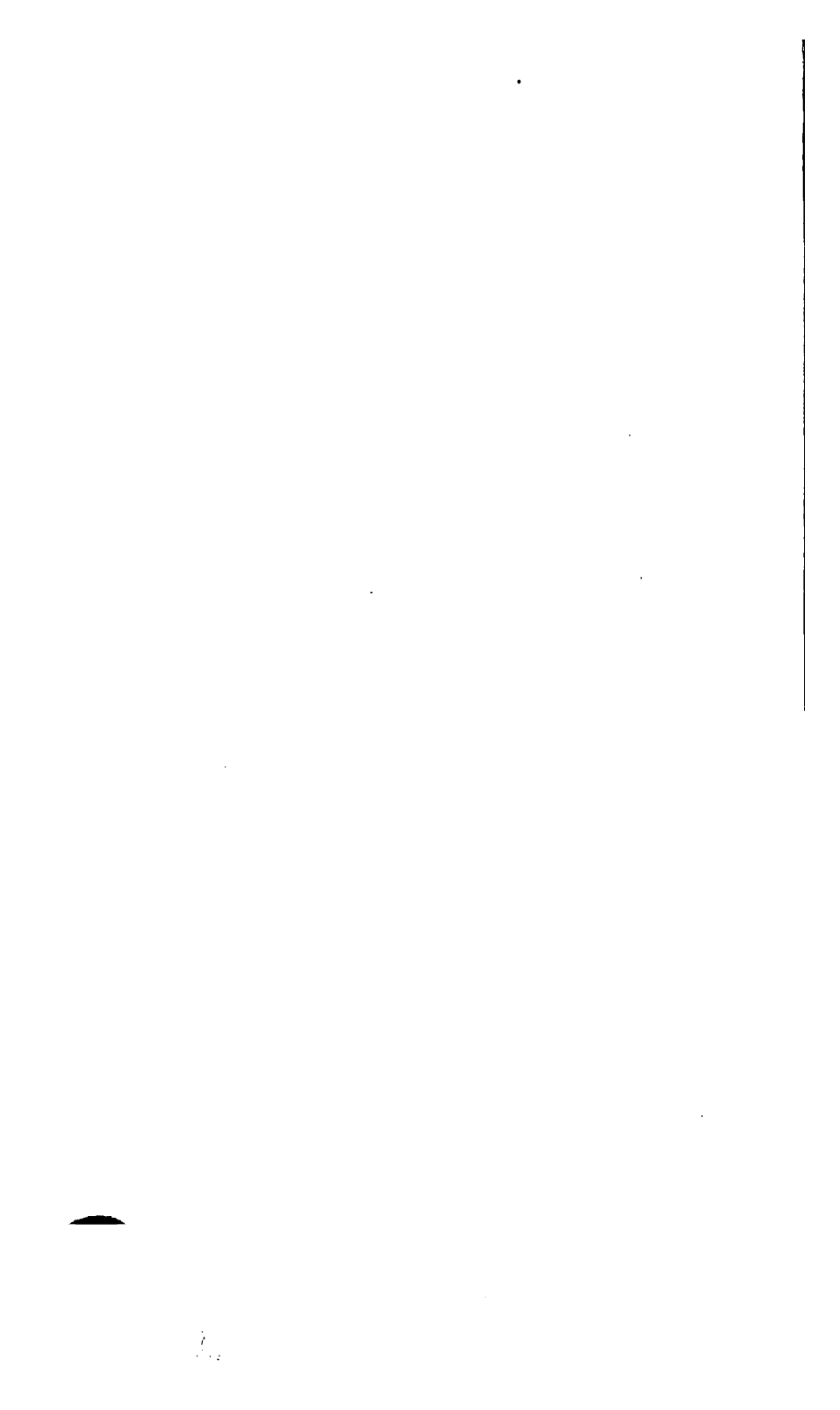
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W. Johnston

C H A R A C T E R S

A N D

A N E C D O T E S

O F T H E

COURT of SWEDEN.

*Virtue stands firmer when fastain'd by Fame;
And Faults take warning from a temper'd blame.*

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

Adolf F. Ristell

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C O N T E N T S

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S E C O N D V O L U M E.

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PRINCIPLES of the present form of Government in Sweden. The *Porte-feuille* of Foreign Affairs in the King's own guard. The offices of Prime Minister or High Chancellor of the Kingdom; by whom occupied. The Secretaries of State in the three branches of Administration: the Civil Department, the Military, and that of the Finances. The high officers of the Kingdom, and Members of the former Senate who have been retained in their respective places.

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A N E C-

C H A R A C T E R S
AND
A N E C D O T E S
O F T H E
COURT of SWEDEN.

C H A P T E R XII.

ACCORDING to the principle of the present form of government in Sweden, no new taxes can be imposed, and no new laws established, without the consent of the people through their representatives, who in consequence are to assemble as often as the King finds it necessary.

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The

The whole administrative and executive power belongs to the King ; all the officers of the kingdom, military, civil, and ecclesiastical, are chosen and authorised by him, and accountable to him alone.

Except the Supreme Court for the administration of justice, already mentioned, the whole weight of government lays on his Majesty's own shoulders; the different departments of state are directly under his own eyes; it is by him they are put to work; it is to him all business is referred before any thing can be put in execution.

All ministerial matters are commonly dispatched by the King himself, or through his Secretary, Mr. Van Asp, who has the

porte

porte feuille of foreign affairs. This gentleman, brought up and formed to such business by his Majesty's Ambassadors, Baron V. Nolcken, in England, and the late Count Creutz, in France, is known for abilities equal to the importance of his place.

It was lately filled by his predecessor, Mr. Franck, with great distinction; but as the Monarch is himself indefatigable, this department gives too much work for one person. Very few will be able to resist the fatigue so long as Mr. Franck has done. The King at last granted him his retreat, with the rank and pay of a Secretary of State, and the exercise of that employment at the first vacancy.

The pomp and appearance of Ministry is kept up by their Excellencies Count Oxenstierna and Count Duben, associated in the exercise of the High Chancellorship of the kingdom.

Count Oxenstierna is looked upon as a genius of the first order, but who has not been very forward of promoting himself. He was several years Secretary of the Swedish Embassy at Vienna, and at his return home, he staid some time at the Queen Dowager's Court, and was only known by a distinguished talent for poetry. The King dining one day with the Queen Dowager at her summer Palace Swartfloe, testified some astonishment that a Count Oxenstierna, now living in her Court, was not invited

invited to her table; she excused herself with his want of an employment that could give him the rank required for such an honour. The King said no more on that occasion, but requesting the Count to wait upon him in town, he appointed him a Chamberlain in the Royal Court, and presented him as such to the Queen on the next visit he paid her at Swartfloe.

Though now in a good way leading to the first places in the kingdom, yet the Count attended very assiduously to a small employment he had in the Department of Foreign Affairs to keep himself in practice. Having some years later, been raised, with five more of the King's Chamberlains, to the rank of

First Gentleman or Lord of the Bed-Chamber, he was also appointed an Honorary Member of the Board of Chancery, where he now takes place as President ; a prerogative always belonging to the Prime Minister. In this place he succeeded to the late Count Creutz, and had been made a Senator on purpose. The King had already bought the house of the late Count Charles Fersen, for a perpetual residence for the Prime Ministers, and now his Majesty made also the purchase of the elegant furniture and even the library of Count Creutz, and left the house as it stood to the use of Count Oxenstierna.

It is also plentifully provided with
plate

plate and other necessaries, for the reception of the foreign Ambassadors, to whom his Excellency gives frequent entertainments.

Though the skill and abilities of Count Oxenstierna may perhaps be compared to any Minister in Europe, yet his chief merit with his master is, perhaps, that he never offers his opinion but when asked, and never insists upon it, when he finds the King of a contrary sentiment. King Gustavus is fond of governing by himself; and though he greatly admires and values the qualities of the famous Axel Oxenstierna, Chancellor of the kingdom under the reign of King Gustavus Adolphus and that

of his daughter Christina, yet I think a Minister, of the Chancellor's daring and inflexible character, could not long maintain himself in the King's favour.

Count Duben, also a very worthy member of the former Senate, had passed a great part of his life in the Court of the late King, and has all the appearance and manners of the most accomplished courtier. As he has always been in the secret of all the intrigues and different interests of the Court, as well as of the proceedings of the former parties in Sweden, he has a great deal of knowledge in politics, though he has not before appeared in that line. A constant personal attachment to the
 Royal

Royal Family may also perhaps be regarded as a reason for his present trust.

Among the Secretaries of State; Mr. Schroederheim is the eldest in office : he has the Civil Department, and is come to such an eminent place of honour very young, having made his way merely by his talents, and useful services to his Master. Though he is of very agreeable social qualities, and likes good company as well as any man in the world, yet he has few his equals in unremitted application to business. He has therefore very little time to attend to his own affairs, which in consequence are supposed not to be in the best order; and this is the more probable

probable, because he has so good a heart that he would give his last shilling to the poor, of whom there are a great number waiting on him every morning. But the King's favour has supported him to the present time, and will probably continue to do so. He has formerly been accused of making his clients pay his services; it may be possible: but to my certain knowledge, he has often employed himself in favour of people of merit, who would have thought it an offence, to offer any other acknowledgment than their esteem and gratitude.

The War Department is looked upon as the richest in lawful emoluments. The
present

present Secretary of State is Mr. Carlsson. He is very much esteemed in respect to his personal character, and known in the literary world by his cabinet of Ornithology, of which there is publishing a magnificent description at his private expence.

Baron Ruth succeeded in the Department of the Finances to Baron Lilljencrantz, who having several times demanded his dismissal, was provided with a place in the Senate. Though it has been said, that the present Secretary of State did not find the Treasury in the most flourishing condition, yet the greatest success he may possibly aspire to, is to keep up matters in the same state in which he found them.

It

It was of great service to his reputation, that he had been a very good œconomist to himself as well as to the Duke of Sudermania, whom he cleared of all his debts at a very easy rate. I wish he could do the same with the kingdom.

By the means of five or six persons just mentioned, the government is kept in the same activity, as formerly by the co-operation of the whole Senate. It has been reported, that when Count Axel Fersen took his leave of the Senate, his pretended reason was, that neither himself nor his fellow Senators were of the least use

use to their country, and that there was never an example of such a superfluous expence as that of the King of Sweden, when he paid sixteen Privy-Counsellors, without ever asking the advice of one among them.

Those who seem to be still remaining of the former Senate, are only those high officers of the kingdom, who, without regard to their place among that illustrious order, have enjoyed the same rank and prerogatives by the nature of their respective offices. Such are,

The Duke of Heffenstein, Governor of
the

the Swedish Provinces in Germany; of whom more in a following chapter.

His Excellency Count Bonde, High Marshal of the kingdom and of the King's Household, is of the antient family of Bonde already mentioned in the fourth chapter, and the fifteenth Senator of that race in an uninterrupted succession from father to son. As the only son of his elder brother died some years ago unmarried, the possessions of the family are now assembled in one hand.

His Excellency Baron Charles Sparre, Governor of Stockholm, is also of a very antient and illustrious family, one of his ancestors having married the daughter of
King

King Eric XI. of Sweden. Baron Sparre was Chief Commissioner for provisioning the Army, in the Prussian war; and after the peace he was rewarded with the Government of Gefleborg, in the north of Sweden. Here he made himself so much admired and beloved, that it was chiefly to his popularity that he owed the preferment to his present place, in which his conduct has not fallen short of his former reputation.

His Excellency Count Beckfries, is of an illustrious and opulent family in Denmark, from whence his ancestors removed into Sweden. He has, ever since he came into the Senate, been a Member of the Supreme Court of Justice; and is so well acquainted

acquainted with the business of that department, that his Majesty has thought him necessary for the consolidation of the new establishment, where he relieves the Lord Chief Justice in the Presidency.

CHAP.

CHAPTER XIII.

AMONG several persons mentioned in the preceding chapters, there are some who deserve a more particular attention.

Count Axel Fersen, though of a very ancient family, may yet be said to be the first who has given any great illustration to the name in Sweden.

Being by birth attached to the French interest, and having given early symptoms of a genius capable of great enterprizes and an undaunted constancy in their ex-

ecution, he was so warmly recommended by Count Tessin and others of the same party in Sweden, that the French Ministry appointed him a Colonel in the service of that kingdom, and trusted him with the command of a regiment, before he had commanded a company in his own country.

But his foreign preferment having opened him the way to greater honours at home, his knowledge in political matters rendered him necessary to his friends; and a short time after his return into Sweden he became one of the leaders of the French party.

In the memorable year 1756, he was
elected

electd Marshal of the Diet; having had for a competitor the Count Brahe, who was supported by the Russian party. The election of Count Fersen being carried only by a single voice, there was in the course of the Diet a continual struggle for the superiority: but the prudent measures and steady conduct of Count Fersen gained him more and more the confidence of the Members, and his party had also in the other Orders a plurality of voices, that left little prospect of their opponents success, though the interest of the Court was in favour of the latter.

Count Brahe, who had a great deal more ambition than skill, has been accused of designs to raise his own grandeur, even

to the ruin of his country; for no other consequence could reasonably be expected from entrusting an arbitrary power in the hands of two foreigners; of whom one, though with the best intentions for his country, saw himself continually obliged to give up all other considerations for domestic peace; and the other, looking upon her subjects only as so many tools for promoting her interest, thought it the greatest honour for them to sacrifice their lives in pursuing her violent schemes: such was also the consequence of a plot detected on this occasion, and for the execution of which Count Brahe had been flattered with a Dukedom.

One of the King's footmen, of the
name

name of Ernst, was employed to raise a party among the mob; and having for that purpose been drinking with a soldier of the Guards, he related to him in confidence several circumstances, which the soldier related to his serjeant, who again thought it his duty to acquaint his officers with what he had heard; and Count Creutz, Ensign in the regiment, was the person he applied to, who instantly reported it to Count Fersen.

As the Count had the military command in the capital, it was easy for him to take all necessary measures against the execution of any intended revolt; but either he did not think the intelligence of sufficient authenticity, or otherwise he

wished to give the accused persons an opportunity of escaping; no step was taken against them but in a public manner. The Count having given notice to the Secret Committee of the Diet, it was resolved that Ernst should be taken into custody and tried as soon as possible. This determination being publicly known, Count Hard, with several others, took the hint, and by a sudden retreat saved themselves; but Count Brahe either had too much pride to withdraw from the danger, or relied on the protection of the Court; and could not be prevailed upon to retire, though entreated by his father in law, Count Piper, and several other of his nearest friends: the consequence was, that Count Brahe, together with Baron Horn,

and

and several other accomplices of inferior note, were condemned to lose their heads on the scaffold.

The Countess Brahe having in vain begged an audience of Count Fersen, waited for him at the foot of the stairs, and on her knees supplicated for the life of her husband, but to no purpose; the Count, though no enemy to the fair sex, was never disposed to give up justice or political vengeance to the tears of beauty: the sentence was executed without mercy.

The citizens of the capital were more compassionate, and secretly offered to take up arms to rescue the Count, - if King Adolphus would appear at their head; but

either the goodness of the King's heart suggested to him hopes that the prisoners would be pardoned, or he foresaw that a civil war would be the consequence of openly declaring himself against the Diet, he for this time resisted all the vehement eloquence of the Queen, and absolutely refused to interfere in the business: but such was the effervescence of the turbulent spirits in this Diet, that this good and peaceable King hardly escaped being dethroned, as having by his connivance in the Queen's participation in the scheme of the conspirators, forfeited his right to the throne. The question was really moved in the Secret Committee, and remained undecided for three days.

I make

I make no doubt but the animosity against the Court co-operated afterwards with the money of France, to make Sweden participate in the hostilities against the King of Prussia. This war furnished a new career for the talents of Count Ferſen: it is true that he ſeldom found himſelf charged with the execution of an enterprize; but in the Council of War, his opinion commonly proved the beſt. When the Pruſſian General Mantheuſel was taken priſoner by a Swediſh party, who in purſuing the enemy penetrated within the gates of Anclam, Count Ferſen had foreſeen ſuch an event, and the place ſhould have been taken by ſurpriſe, had his advice been followed.

When,

When, at last, this war proved very unsuccessful, and the discontent of the nation gave a considerable preponderance to the opposite party, Count Ferfen and his friends found means to insinuate themselves into the favour of the Court, and have ever since preserved that advantage; until the increasing authority of the present King put the Nobles on their guard against a power, capable of reducing their privileges within the bounds of the common rights of citizens.

The scheme employed by Count Ferfen for working a favourable change in the disposition of the Court in regard to his party, was of a very happy invention.

The

The Swedes, being indebted to the mediation of the Queen for a tolerable peace with her brother, were in some measure reconciled to her interference in political matters; and it was a great deal owing to her influence that Baron Rudbeck was elected Marshal of the Diet in the year 1765.

This Nobleman, having received numerous marks of favour from the Court, on account of his apparent zeal and repeated promises, to do every thing in his power to promote the Queen's interest, and procure a more extended authority for her spouse, was obliged in honour to make a trial; but as a prevailing party is never fond of giving up any part of it's prerogatives,

gatives, this subject was constantly deferred under various pretexts; and when the Queen grew at last impatient, and insisted upon the execution of the Baron's engagement, it was agreed between the leaders of the party, that the question should be proposed; as they thought it could not fail of being contradicted by the opposite party, and produce a ballot, in which a certain number of the majority should vote with the opposition, on purpose to produce a negative, which would naturally be attributed to the great efforts of Count Ferfen and his friends.

The Count having purchased this intelligence by a considerable sum of money, communicated the secret to his party, and
entreated

entreated them not to utter a single word against the proposition. Thus the motion having been made without the least contradiction from the side whence it was expected, the majority were obliged to oppose it themselves, for fear it should be looked upon as approved by the unanimous consent of the House.

This state of the deliberation having been reported at Court, roused the indignation of the Queen against those who had deluded her with hopes they had no intention to realize. Count Fersen and his party made their best of the occasion, and possessed themselves entirely of the confidence and favour of the Court, by whose assistance they soon got the better of

of their antagonists, and engrossed all the advantages of the anticipated Diet of 1769 to themselves.

It is true that the Court had been flattered with promises of great advantage, but this at last was reduced to the mere payment of the King and Queen's debts; for as soon as the party saw themselves in possession of an unbounded power, and had formed a Senate to their liking, they were more anxious about preserving their superiority than keeping their promise. The proposed *Act of Security*, under pretence of forming the Swedish Constitution upon the model of the English, seemed to appropriate a greater authority to the King than he had before enjoyed;

joyed; but as he was to exercise it in conjunction with the Senate, where he had but two votes out of eighteen, his case would have been nearly the same; without any hopes of redress from the Nation, whose Representatives would have been assembled only when the Senate thought it convenient; and as Count Ferfen had taken care to have the Senate filled with his relations and adherents, it is easy to conclude who would in reality have been King of Sweden, though another bore the name.

Count Ferfen has never been fond of appearing in authority, though he always knew how to exercise it through others. The most considerable offices of the kingdom

dom he had always bestowed within his family: one of his brothers in law, Count Ekeblad, was a long time Prime-Minister; two others, Baron Lantinghusen and Baron Sparre, have successively been Governors of the capital; of the three Counts Delagardie, brothers to the Countess Ferfen, one had for a long time the command of the Horse Guards, and the two others were provided with places of importance at Court, and governments in the provinces. His daughters and nieces, all of them eminently qualified for promoting his influence, are in possession of the first places about the Court. His brother, the late Count Charles Ferfen, was the only person in his family he could not influence; for though blessed by nature with
all

all the endowments that make out a great man, he preferred his amusements to business, and the favours of beauty to the possession of a kingdom. Entirely devoted to mirth and pleasure, he never could endure the gloominess of political faces; wherefore he now and then took the pains to enter into his friend's anxieties and give them good counsels, merely to get rid of them. His brother, when uncertain how to act in some particular case, used to pay him a long visit, and repeat over and over every circumstance belonging to the question, and he was almost sure of extorting an advice worthy to be followed.

Though the characters of the two bro-

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thers

thers differed very much, yet they agreed in some principal points, particularly in a most undaunted courage. To say nothing of the intrepidity that ever distinguished the political conduct of Count Axel Fersen, one single instance of his behaviour in private contests will account for the respect born him by his enemies, and from which, in the most violent disputes, they never have permitted themselves to deviate.

A gentleman of great consideration in the opposite faction, and reputed very brave, having thought himself offended by contradiction from Count Fersen, paid him a visit the following morning, and began to expostulate upon the matter in
the

the presence of some other visitors. The Count answered nothing till the others were gone: then he asked the offended gentleman what was the meaning of this discourse; that for his part, he had already told his mind, and had nothing more to add upon the subject: and when the other intimated that he thought himself injured, and desired a reparation—"With all my heart," answered the Count; "I never put off resenting an injury, nor giving a proper satisfaction;" and so he very calmly bolted the door, took his sword, and put himself in a posture of defence. The other, stupefied at this coolness, instantly abated very much of his resolution, and finished with asking the Count's pardon.

The brave always were devoted to the fair: Count Axel Fersen has been reputed no less an admirer of the sex than his brother; but yet his amours have often appeared subservient to his politics. Such were the chains that tied him to the ear of the Countess Ribbing; not that I deny one may have been really in love with that lady; many examples have proved the contrary; but as the affections of Count Fersen were at that time strongly engaged by another object, and the strict connections of the Countess with the French Ambassador might prove advantageous to his interest, it may be no great mistake in supposing his principal motive to have been founded in politics.

But

But even the greatest men are seldom free from reproach. The foible of Count Ferfen is œconomy. Being himself a younger brother, and having spent a great deal of money in France, he had very little more than the fortune of his wife at his first setting out in his own country; but after having been Marshal of several Diets, he is at present one of the richest Noblemen in Sweden; and yet it never was the least fuspicion, that money had any influence on his public character. It has more been his principle to save than to acquire. Of the considerable fums allowed for the Marshal's table, very little has been spent on the Diets. His dinners were commonly neither splendid nor much frequented, except by his numerous rela-

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tions.

tions. The Countess had no more than four guineas pin money a month, and if she happened to lose at cards, she never could get more but by anticipating her allowance for the next month. The steward had his orders, and no reason was accepted for breaking the regulations.

The only point in which he deviates from the strictest rules of œconomy, is in building. His house in town, formerly belonging to the family of Wachtmeister, of which his mother was descended, is quite a palace, furrounded with gardens, and terraces elevated on vaults and pillars above twenty feet from the ground. The only thing that seems to disagree with this magnificence, is that the wings of such
a palace

a palace are built in a low and narrow taste, adapted to the convenience of poor trades-people, to whom they are let preferably to other persons, because shops and manufactories pay a higher rent than common lodgings. There has not been the same temptation for spoiling the elegant house at Liung, his principal country-seat in Ostrogothia; but yet even this sumptuous building bears some marks of misapplied œconomy, especially the roof; being covered with iron plates, cheaper with regard to the first price, but requiring a great attention and a yearly allowance to be kept in repair; instead of copper, which is subject to no additional charges for its preservation.

Count Ferfen has several other houses; but those mentioned are his own work, and worthy of his vast and lofty genius. His eldest son will be extremely rich; and among the family houses left him by his uncle, who had himself no male heirs, Steninge, situated on the beautiful lake Melar is one of the most agreeable places in Sweden. The young Count is Colonel of the regiment of *Royal Svedois* in France; and his personal qualities are very well known and esteemed at the French Court.

CHAPTER XIV.

COUNT Charles Scheffer is no more; but his memory is dear to all who knew him, and his name will be respected as long as virtue is valued upon earth. He set out early in the world, with all the accomplishments the most liberal education can give, and with those benevolent dispositions which are more common in youth, but which in him were equally warm to the latest period of his life. He could not but believe on the goodness of the human heart, when he judged of others sentiments by his own. He is perhaps the first politician who made
humanity

humanity his principal care. When he was Ambaffador to the Court of France, a fcheme of pacification was the firft fubject that exercifed his talents; and though in that refpect he acted only in a private character, without any orders from his Court, yet his firft effay was received with an uncommon attention; and he had fo juftly weighed the intereft of the belligerent powers, that the articles ftipulated in the Treaty deviated very little from his plan.

Univerfally beloved in France, and delighting in an intercourfe with the learned as well as the fashionable world in thofe regions, he left them with regret, when
called

called to the Senatorial Purple in his native country.

The retreat of Count Tefsin having left vacant the place of Governor to the Prince Royal, no one could be found more proper to succeed him than our young Senator, who joined to all the great and amiable qualities of Count Tefsin, a greater frankness of heart and more solid learning. The uncommon accomplishments of his Royal pupil, as well as the affectionate regard that Prince, in his maturer age, ever paid to the faithful guide of his younger years, are so many proofs how well Count Scheffer deserved such a trust. Having participated in the fate of his friends in the alternate rise and

and fall of the struggling parties in Sweden, and found himself deprived of his place in the Senate, he could not be prevailed on to accept it again, as most of the other deposed Senators did: he preferred the most retired station in life to the most eminent place of honour, in which neither public esteem, nor the purity of his own conscience could secure him from popular insult.

He had too much vivacity in his temper to be revengeful: thus I don't think that he was moved by any resentment of past injuries, to promote the fall of the Russian party in Sweden, and co-operate in the Revolution. I am rather apt to persuade myself, that he saw no other

means

means of preventing the misfortunes which threatened his country from internal divisions, or of putting in force the many salutary regulations, he was continually meditating for the general œconomy of the kingdom. His conversations with the King commonly ran upon no other topic. He had made a short sketch of the political and œconomical state of the kingdom, with the most likely means of promoting public happiness; and having discussed separately every article with the King, and obtained his approbation, he used, every new year, to present the King with a summary account of what had already been put in execution, and what yet remained to do. During the first years of the King's reign, the greatest regard

regard was paid to his patriotic zeal; and one must own, that this part of the King's reign was the most fertile in useful institutions for public œconomy: but other objects having since divided the King's attention, his Majesty seemed to take less pleasure in those matters; and Count Schaffer saw himself obliged to leave them, for fear of being tiresome.

He had gained a great point in having placed Baron Lilljencrantz as Secretary of State in the Finance department, and would occasionally forward some favourite scheme by his means; as the King for some time honoured the Baron with an almost unbounded confidence.

Where

Where Count Scheffer could not engage the influence of Administration, he set at work the patriotic spirit, he had himself so much endeavoured to spread among his countrymen. A Society proposed and formed by Mr. Modeer, for encouraging public œconomy in several branches, took new life under the direction of Count Scheffer, who obtained the King's sanction for the institution under the name of *The Royal Patriotic Society*, laid the foundation of its capital by a present of about a thousand pounds sterling, and engaged all the members to an annual contribution. The example of the Count has been followed by many others; and the Society is now enabled to bestow a great number

number of prizes, not only on œconomical questions, which are proposed every year, but also on practical husbandry: for draining of marshes, improvements in the culture of lands, artificial meadows, stone houses and walls, plantations of trees, &c. and what has produced a particular good effect are the honorary rewards distributed among servants employed in rural œconomy, and who have staid in their places above twelve years, and behaved to the satisfaction of their masters.

Gold medals, of five guineas value, are also given on restoring drowned persons to life by the methods used in England and France; and for which purpose, the instruments are deposited in every watch-house.

house. In short there is no object of common utility left unpromoted by this association, nor does any act of humanity escape their notice and encouragement.

The transactions of the Society, published under the care of the Chief Secretary, Mr. Modeer, contain several treatises adopted by the Society, and the best answers to the proposed questions.

An œconomical journal, published every month, was began and kept up three years by Mr. Ristel, then Secretary to the Society, afterwards the King's Librarian. It has since been continued by Mr. Modeer. It presents successive views of the state and progress of the œconomical

science, and observations on practical husbandry, founded on experience, and applicable to the climate and position of Sweden.

All these institutions are so many lasting monuments of Count Scheffer's active zeal for the public good. The Society has eternized its gratitude towards his memory in a medal, remarkable for its simplicity and truth; it is Minerva presenting the emblem of immortality, with the motto, *Quod Patria Studuit.*

This justly celebrated zeal for his country was always his predominant passion, and his care extended to branches which

one

one would think far remote from the attention of a Statesman and Courtier.

The superintendency of the hospitals and Lazarettos of the kingdom belong to the Chancellor of the Royal Order of Seraphim; Count Scheffer was no sooner invested with that dignity, than one would have thought the poor and sick the sole objects of his solicitude. There was not an old bachelor, in easy circumstances, from whom the Count did not, one way or other, obtain a will for charitable purposes; and the hospitals are now, in many Swedish towns, the most spacious buildings. The establishments for employing the industrious poor, in order to provide for

their subsistence, have also been forwarded by the same beneficent spirit.

By politeness and inclination very attentive to the fair sex, he never heard of a woman under misfortunes but with a desire of serving her; not to mention his good offices and intercessions with persons who could protect the suffering fair, he also paid numerous pensions to widows and orphans, and left by his will his whole fortune to an establishment, serving as an asylum for women of quality and good character, but who were deprived of sufficient support from their families. He had already in his life time bought the house, and settled on it a yearly revenue for the maintenance of
twelve

twelve ladies, under the care of a widow of the most respectable character, a sister of the late Count Creutz Prime Minister and Senator of the kingdom. He has also considerably extended the benefit of the Order of Wadstena, in which now a great number of young ladies are received for a small sum paid for the Star of the Order, which they are allowed to wear together with the habit, which is a very genteel dress, and in the mean time less expensive, because it is always the same, and leaves no room for the extravagance of fancy or fashion. The sum raised by the money paid on admission, is added to the funds of the Order, and serves to provide very handsome pensions to those who, in an unmarried state, lose their

parents, or by some misfortune are reduced to want the support of the institution.

If such generous endeavours deserved a great regard from the fair sex, he gained them no less by all those little attentions which are sure to render a man agreeable. He would keep up a conversation for hours together, on dress, needle-work, and other female occupations; would take the warmest interest in all that affected them; rallied with sprightliness on the most serious subjects; had some delicate compliment ready on every occasion; knew how to make a small present in a manner that increased its value; all this, accompanied with the
 most

most insinuating cheerfulness, a very handsome figure, and the most elegant neatness about his person, could not fail to please.

Though he was extremely partial to beauty, and could probably have had his choice among the fair, yet his marriage was rather a match of convenience than of love on either side. The famous General Daring, who accompanied Charles XII. on his speedy journey from Turkey to Sweden, had two daughters, not very well provided with the charms of their sex; one of them was a very sensible woman; the other was extremely sickly, and weak both in body and mind; their father, advanced in age, wished to see

them before his death under the care of some generous friend, who could support them in their right to a considerable landed estate, and treat them with that friendly indulgence which might supply the loss of an affectionate father.

The General, with all the frankness of an old warrior, told Count Scheffer he thought him the most honest man he knew, and wished he would accept his fortune with the charge of his daughters. The Count, sensible of the confidence of so respectable a man, accepted the proposal, and the ceremony was performed; but before night, the bridegroom was taken ill and retired to his own room. He soon recovered, but ever left the lady undisturbed;

undisturbed; the rather, as it seemed also to be her earnest desire.

In other respects he behaved in a manner to deserve her most tender friendship. She passed her life very agreeably in his company, and at her death she left him, by her will, in full possession of the estate. It is true he had spent great sums of his own in rebuilding the mansion house and embellishing a very barren situation. He had just finished his plan of a garden in the Chinese taste, when his death left his estate at Torefoe in the sole possession of his sister in law, who had for several years been lame, and could not have been expected to outlive the rest of the family.

Garden-

Gardening and agriculture made the principal amusement of Count Scheffer's latter years. Such occupations are the common refuge of every sensible being, tired of the world, and cured of ambition by its many disappointments. A country life was the first destination of man; and we all, through greater or lesser circuits, come back again to nature.

The tranquillity of rural scenes leaves the soul leisure to enjoy its own feelings, and opens the heart to humanity. The farmer, visiting his Lord in town, is nothing but a farmer, a being of inferior kind, made for labour and paying of rents; but in the country he is a man, part of the same species with his noble master.

Count

Count Scheffer not only received his tenants with cordiality at his house, but also returned the visit; and his visits were such as those of superiors ought to be, not a mere civility, but a true blessing to those who received them. He enquired into their circumstances with the kindest solicitude; and if their property was not sufficient for stocking the farm, or something else was wanting to their happiness, they were sure of being relieved as soon as they had made him the confidant of their situation. To avoid all appearance of partiality, he did not visit one more than the other; he made a round among them all, and when he came to the last, he began a new turn.

These

These were his morning walks, which he took almost every day, by way of exercise. Nobody ever lead a more regular life: he commonly rose at five in the morning, made his fire himself, and finished his letters and other business of importance, before any one in the house was stirring; at nine he took his chocolate, at ten he was dressed for the day, and ready to see company; at eleven he took his ordinary walk, and was commonly home at one, and made a light breakfast with those who were come to dine with him on the day; he then retired for a short time, and gave his orders according to what company he had; and at two o'clock the dinner was on the table.

Every

Every one knew his hours, and neither himself or his friends were perfectly at ease when they happened to come later than one o'clock; but after the first instant of embarrassment was over, he was all cheerfulness and attention for the remainder of the day; retiring only between four and six o'clock to dispatch business, when there was any, or else to read, or write down any thing that was remarkable enough to enter into his journal, which he had continued from a very early period of life. There were only some few select friends who ever had the sight of this work, and I know not what became of it after his death; if it should be ever published, it will be a most interesting and curious present to the literary world.

It

It is written in French; and though it is a first sketch, there are very few corrections, and the character of the greatest elegance.

He understood Latin, Italian, English and German, well enough to read authors; but French was the most familiar to him, and his stile in that language would be no disgrace to any Member of the French Academy. Neither had he neglected his mother tongue: several of his public speeches have been cited as models of Swedish eloquence; and his *Principles of Oeconomical Government*, in which he has given a concise view of the plan he proposed to be followed in Sweden, presents a clearness of reasoning and an eloquence
of

of file, which gives a double satisfaction to the reader; and his system would already have been put in execution, if private interest was not in general a more powerful motive than the public good.

Men of genius and learning looked upon him as their common protector, and many have been forwarded by his friendly exertions. It has been said that he sometimes interested himself for persons who afterwards did no honour to his discernment: but a benefactor, prompted only by the pleasure of doing good, is not to blame because one or two out of an hundred may prove unworthy of his kindness. However, among those who have had any considerable share in his favour, there are
 none

none totally void of merit, if we except one Sackenhjelm, who had cost him a great deal of trouble and money to no purpose. But his endeavours to make any thing of this poor subject were rather the consequence of duty than of choice, the man being son to the steward of the Count's father, by whom he had been warmly recommended to the friendship and protection of the family. No dislike whatever could make Count Scheffer forget this; and when by repeated experiments he was at last convinced that the gentleman was literally without genius, he left him the enjoyment of a very handsome estate for life, under the inspection of a person of confidence, who took care of the estate as well as of the gentleman.

As

As Count Scheffer was sincere in his friendship, he had also great forbearance with his friends. Their faults would sometimes bring on very warm expostulations, but never alter his sentiments towards them. His great vivacity of temper totally disappeared when in company with old people, and he never manifested the least mark of his natural impatience at their slowness and infirmities. He would stay for hours together with his old friend Roennow, who was so deaf that he sometimes wanted to have the words repeated ten times over, before he could comprehend them, and spoke himself so slowly, that one might easily forget the beginning of a sentence, before he had

brought it to the end. This tedious companion never doubted but that his lively friend was extremely delighted with his conversation.

One who bore that respect to an advanced age, deserved to enjoy it longer himself; but his friends were denied the pleasure of paying him the same attention. A sort of rheumatic weakness in his hands occasioned his journey to Achen, where his complaint was rather encreased than cured. It changed into a disorder in his legs, for which good physicians did not think proper to apply any remedy; but on his way home he met with a quack, who persuaded him that nothing

was

was more easy than to cure him. By the prescriptions, of this Galenus, the disorder, it is true, was removed from the legs, but it now lodged itself in the breast, and soon put an end to a life that had done so much honour to humanity.

He died with the same cheerfulness in which he had lived; and without any other anxiety than about the fate of his charitable institutions; as he had been obliged to employ on his journey part of the money destined for their benefit: but his worthy brothers, the Senator Count Ulrick Scheffer, and the Field Marshal Baron Peter Scheffer, set his mind at ease on this subject, by resigning what right

they might have to his inheritance, and promising to do every thing in their power for the support of his generous and useful intentions.

C H A P.

CHAPTER XV.

DURING the struggles between the French and the Russian parties in Sweden, the Scheffers constantly followed the political principles of Count Ferfen; and Count Ulric Scheffer was looked upon as appointed successor to Count Ekeblad in the Ministry, long before the event took place. It has also of late been the ordinary step from that of Swedish Ambassador to the Court of France.

After the change in the form of government, the differences between the Court and the Nobility succeeding to the

former divisions in the kingdom, Count Ferfen has been looked upon as the leader of the country party, whereas the Scheffers, having once openly declared their sentiments in favour of the preponderance of the Royal Authority, remained constant to the same principles.

Their chief motive was that of uniting the common force for one purpose: the independance of the kingdom, both in political and œconomical respects. The former depending very much upon the latter, the improvement of agriculture, and the re-integration of the Crown-revenues, in a numerary species of a fixt value, were their principal objects; and a long experience having furnished sufficient proofs
of

of the instability of even the best measures adopted by the Diet, they looked upon the Royal power as the only means of effectuating their salutary views, and bringing the public œconomy of the kingdom into system and consistence.

A new taxation of the lands, by which a certain sum would have been paid for every acre, instead of the taxation by houses or farms, now in use, was one of the favorite schemes of Count Charles Scheffer; but as the great proprietors would have been most the losers by that reformation, and it would also have brought on another question, why a third part of the kingdom, or the ancient possessions of the Nobility, should be exempted from

taxation? the project was violently contradicted. Some person having maliciously observed, that it was very well in those who had no children and consequently no interest farther than their own life time, to forward ideas capable of reducing the Nobles to the condition of farmers to the Crown; the Count replied with some warmth: " It is true I have no family; but therefore I have the less private views; but you, who boast of having children, take care that the interest of your family does not make you forget the interest of your country."

It is also the case with both his brothers to have no offspring. The Baron has never been married; and Count Ulric
Scheffer,

Scheffer made, like his elder brother, rather a match of œconomy than of love. Not that the Countess wants amiable qualities, but she was already past the age of pregnancy, before she married Count Scheffer, who is her second husband; the former was Count Brahe, who lost his life for a scheme, in some respects equal to that in which the latter has participated with more success.

A marriage between the widow of Count Brahe and one of the party by whom he was prosecuted and condemned, might have been looked upon as a very strange union, if it was not known that Count Ulric Scheffer had very little share in the affairs of that Diet, and has never
acted

acted as a leader in the party, being by inclination more apt to study and sedentary employments, than to produce himself in the active part of a public character.

One point upon which the Scheffers have perfectly agreed with the new party of Count Fersen, is the maintenance of peace with the neighbouring powers. On one side, the fear of the expences and contributions occasioned by a war, and on the other an ardent desire of carrying on their æconomical plans without impediment or interruption, have co-operated to the same purpose: and Count Ulric Scheffer had several times openly declared, that he would not have any part in the administration of public affairs, if the kingdom

dom

dom was involved in a war, without the absolute necessity of self-defence. It is commonly believed that some apprehensions of seeing the peace disturbed occasioned his retreat out of the Ministry and the Senate. He has since passed his time, in the same manner as his elder brother employed the latter part of his life, in study and rural occupations.

The Field Marshal, Baron Scheffer, is still in the service, but as yet he has had no command in the present war. He is a bachelor, and lives also constantly in the country. Moved by the same charitable spirit as his elder brother, he has taken care of many gentlemen's sons in narrow circumstances, had them educated at his
 expence,

expencc, and placed in the army. There are always some of them living at his house, where they are treated with all the regard due to their birth, and with that friendly attention which they could hardly expect from any but a parent: and he has already had the pleasure to see several of them behave in a manner that does honour to their education.

I don't know what are the sentiments of the Scheffers in respect to the Revolution of this present year, but several of their former friends have been conspicuous in the opposition.

The General Frederic Horn was so zealous for the Revolution of 1772, that
he

he was rewarded with the title of Count, the Blue Ribbon, and the command of the Horse Guards. He then professed such a personal attachment to the King, that he would have changed his family-name, one of the most antient and illustrious of the country, for a new one of his own choice, and equivalent in signification to Gustavus's friend; and when the King, who is very partial to ancient names, let him understand he would wish no alteration in that respect, the Count would at least have the chiffré of Gustavus III. added to his Coat of Arms; to which his Majesty consented.

All was extremely well for some time; but when the King had bestowed all the
favours

favours in his power, and nothing more could be hoped for, the Count appeared less warm in his zeal, and at last set up for an avowed malecontent. It is possible there was some particular reason for this change of sentiments; and that the command of the Horse Guards, which the Count resigned in favour of the Duke of Sudermania, caused him some regret.

But one would have expected from the pride of General Horn that some little private dissatisfaction would not appear to influence his public conduct, so far as to speak with the same vehemence against the interest of the Court, as he had formerly done in its defence against the Diet.

One

One may say, that the state of the question was altered; but one must also own, that Count Horn, with one of the most honest characters in the world, has in his composition something of the spirit of the ancient Knights, who devoted themselves to difficult enterprizes, such as opposing power and combating giants. He had early distinguished himself in that character by several single combats, and by rescuing a captive beauty from the power of a tyrannical parent, who would not allow her to marry according to the choice of her heart. The lady was the only daughter of Mr. Plomgren, brother to the father in law of General Pechlin; and as besides personal accomplishments she had a very handsome fortune, the
adventure

adventure was worth attempting. The enterprize was not carried on so secretly but that her father was informed the very same night; and came in his turn, armed with all the severity of an injured parent, and provided with sufficient force to reclaim his prisoner; but the bridegroom told him he came half an hour too late; and by the interposition of some friends, Mr. Plomgren was reconciled to his son in law.

It would also have been very difficult to find out any reasonable objections to the match, Count Horn, then Baron Horn, being by birth related to the first families in the kingdom; and his sister had been really married to King Fredericus of Sweden.

The

The old Monarch had been captivated by her beauty and truly majestic figure ; and as he could not obtain her on other terms, was obliged to pass through the ceremony. I do not know if her Royal husband, upon serious reflection, found the adventure unequal to his years, or if marriage, in him, proved a sufficient antidote against love, but certain it is, that after the bridal night he never any more enjoyed her company.

It had been agreed upon that she should take the title of Countess of Cassel, the hereditary estate of the King ; but perhaps equally dissatisfied with her spouse, as he appeared indifferent to her, she preferred her own name, and stiled herself only

Countess Horn; but after the death of the King, she married the Count Barck, Senator of the kingdom, who had been her constant admirer from her first appearance in the world, and continued a lover even after marriage.

Count Horn had by his marriage an only son, who is a living proof that fondness in parents does not always spoil their children. The young Count is of a very worthy and amiable character; and though entitled by his birth to the first places at Court or in the army, he has by choice taken a way in which knowledge and experience are the only claims to preferment. He is a Major in the corps of Engineers, and has been admired for
his

his speedy progress in the sciences belonging to his station. He passes also for a great algebraist; and what is not very common in mathematicians, he has a taste for poetry, and is an excellent judge in those matters, as well as in music, in which he is also a very good performer.

His father, who never opposed any of his wishes but with the friendly expostulations of a brother, has permitted him to marry a lady of an agreeable figure and very good character, but without any fortune. It was a common report, that the old Count made more than one sacrifice in giving his consent to this match, as he himself, being then a widower, was a great admirer of the younger sister;

but for the happiness of his son, he got the better of his own passion, and has since married a widow lady of a very respectable character, who behaves as a true mother to the young couple, and is of an age that gives no apprehensions of brothers and sisters to divide the inheritance.

General Horn has an elder brother, who was also made a Count on the same occasion as the younger. With one of the finest estates in the country, he is, through a neglected œconomy, very often in straitened circumstances; and his office of President to the Board of Commissioners for providing the army, as it obliges him to live in the capital, is the occasion of his
 expending

expending ten times more than the amount of his salary. The great point of his ambition has been the Star of the Military Order, of which he has already the Ribbon. After having been a long time disappointed in his hopes of obtaining that favour, he took it in his head that it was the fault of his friend, Count Charles Scheffer, who he supposed had not, according to his promise, put the King in mind of his merit; and therefore he resolved to speak to his Majesty himself. He accordingly asked for an audience; and having entered upon the subject with a question—if his Majesty had any reason to be dissatisfied with him? the King frankly answered, yes; and though I suppose the Count had many good arguments to urge

some figure, and daughter to the Chamberlain Odencrantz, proprietor of Medewy, an estate of considerable value, and a celebrated watering place in Sweden.

Among the friends and adherents of the late Count Charles Scheffer, Baron Lilljencrantz, formerly Mr. Westerman, deserves a distinguished place. All that has been executed of the æconomical plan is owing to his judicious and zealous intervention.

He had early applied himself to the study of æconomy, and made the tour of Europe, with a view to collect observations in that respect which might prove useful to his country,

After

After his return home, he was for a long while neglected, and could get no employment worthy of his genius and stock of knowledge. His ideas were too extensive for the comprehension of the greater number, and required more attention than the principal leaders of the Diets had leisure to bestow on lucubrations upon the improvement of public œconomy. They had business enough to maintain themselves in power, and to support the particular interest of their respective factions.

Count Scheffer was perhaps the only person of any great consideration, who knew the true value of this meditating genius, and had weighed his principles well enough to be convinced of their
justness,

justness, and the advantage that was to be expected from their application to the general œconomy of the kingdom.

But it would have been of no use to propose or effectuate any reformation of that kind, so long as the executive power, wavering between the parties that divided the kingdom, was never sure to bring even the most plausible measures to a required degree of maturity and stability. But that power, assembled and settled in the hands of a judicious monarch, gave a better prospect for those patriotic intentions. The six first years of the present reign have brought forth more enterprizes for public benefit, than the same space of time ever produced in any country;

country before; and most of them have been approved by the test of experience.

If the fortune of Baron Lilljencrantz had been slow, it now went on with the greater rapidity. Within less than twelve years, from the time when his merit came to be known to King Gustavus III. he was a Senator of the Kingdom, and had amassed considerable riches, which he can enjoy without the least reproach.

He has been ranked among the Nobility of the kingdom, as well in respect to his services as to his origin from the family of Vasa, by his descent from a daughter of Christer Johnson Vasa, paternal uncle to King Gustavus I.

C H A P.

C H A P T E R XVI.

COUNT Hoepken, lately deceased, was, in the political world, one of those shining meteors, which dazzle the eye for a short time, and disappear as suddenly as their appearance was unexpected.

In one day almost, he made his way from a subordinate place in the Chancery, up to the Senatorial Purple. His Administration as a Prime Minister was of a very short period; but remarkable for the beginning of the Prussian war, the origin of lasting evils to his country.

Since

Since his forced retreat in 1761, he has made no figure in politics; and in the latter years of his life was only remarkable for being the oldest Member of the Senate.

The Count's father was known for the originality of his repartees. He was Secretary of State when the Russian Ambassador, Count Bestucheff, before the war of 1741, requested a categorical answer whether Sweden chose war or peace. The question being undecided in the Senate, and yet some answer being necessary, Mr. Hoepken made out a project, which was approved of, and presented to the Ambassador; who having read it through with the greatest attention, and being at
a loss

a loss to find out what was the meaning of the Senate, he had recourse to the Secretary for an *éclaircissement*; but Mr. Hoepken answered, with the greatest politeness, that he was sorry he had no orders for giving a further explanation than was to be found in the paper. "But I have been studying your paper these two hours," replied the Ambassador, "and yet I cannot get into the secret of the Senate's intention." "And can your Excellency pretend," returned the Secretary, "to extricate in two hours time what I have been so many days in folding up?"

It happened once that the Senate was assembled before he came, and Count Gyllenborg told him that they had been
waiting

waiting for him. " I have been so many times waiting for their Excellencies," answered the Secretary, " that I am very glad they have once done me the honour to return the civility.

He was a man of great learning and literary merit; the son also was more qualified to shine in the line of literature than of politics.

The institution of the Royal Society of Stockholm, commonly known under the name of the Swedish Academy of Sciences, was the work of Count Hoepken's early years. He was himself the first Secretary, and had the pleasure to be a witness of the progress and fame of the establishment during

during half a century. He has left it secured upon so lasting a foundation, that it will probably perpetuate the glory of its founder to the latest posterity.

The improvement of the Swedish language was one of the objects of the Society; and how far he was himself able to set the example in that way, may be judged by his speech in memory of his friend and promoter the late Count Tessin, which is commonly looked upon as a masterpiece of eloquence. He had early formed his style upon that of Tacitus; and the few productions we have of Count Höpken's pen make us regret he has left no more.

Such

Such was his literary reputation, that in all the later establishments for promoting knowledge or improving the language of the country, he was always the first Member appointed.

He has left a son, of whose education he had taken the greatest care: but as he is yet very young, it is difficult to form any judgment how far he will keep up the reputation of his name. He is known as yet only for one point of resemblance to his grandfather, who was sometimes so absorbed in his speculations that in dressing himself he would forget his shoes or small clothes, and would often come to Court, with one hat on his head and another under his arm; he was,

however, a man of genius, and that may perhaps be the case with the young Count.

Of his uncle's, Baron Hoepken's family, there is likewise but one son living; who is a Captain of Dragoons, and was rewarded with the Military Order for his behaviour at the battle of Hoghland, on board the ship of the Duke of Sudermania, in whose Court he lives. His sisters have all been remarkable beauties; but the youngest is already dead, and the others are married in the country.

CHAPTER XVII.

THE Duke of Heffenstein is the only person of that dignity in Sweden, except the Royal Family; the title of Count being the highest degree among the Swedish Nobility. The prerogatives which in England and France belong to the rank of a Duke, are in Sweden reserved solely to the Senators of the kingdom, and some few persons who in the present reign have been honoured with that distinction; such as Count Brahe, the General Count Charles Emil Lewenhaupt, and Count Adolphus Lewenhaupt, Grand Master of the Horse.

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The Duke of Heffenstein had also been presented with a diploma of the same rights, without any other title than that of Count, which he already bore; but having been made a Duke of the Roman Empire in Germany, he was acknowledged for a Duke in Sweden; and this was thought to be a prelude to the introduction of that title among the Swedish Nobility. However, as Count Brahe and the others who could be entitled to such a distinction, did not seem very fond of it, the project was put off for that time; and as matters now stand, it is very probable it will, for a long time, not be thought of.

As to the Duke of Heffenstein, the
title

title was of no great consequence, as he is a bachelor, and will probably remain so. It must also be the less a subject of jealousy among the Swedish Nobles, as his birth might entitle him to some particular distinction, in a country where his father had been a sovereign.

He is an acknowledged son of Fredericus King of Sweden. His mother, Lady Hedwig Taube, was perhaps the most beautiful person in the kingdom; and the King, having taken her clandestinely from her parents, would perhaps have married her, if the Queen, the sister and successor of Charles XII. and to whom King Fredericus was indebted for the throne, had not then been living.

To make up the matter with the young lady's family, the King honoured her with a title of the first consideration in the country, having her declared Countess of the Empire, and settled upon her several estates in Germany, to make out a County for her eldest son.

The King being known as a dangerous admirer of the fair sex, was not much trusted by parents who had handsome daughters; but as he had been connected by friendship with the old Count Taube, Admiral of the kingdom, when the King, then Prince Hereditary of Hesse, was Generalissimo of the Swedish troops, he visited the family at all hours with the familiarity of an old friend, and often got himself

himself admitted at the toilette of the daughters by counterfeiting the voice of their mother. He was soon captivated with the growing charms of Lady Hedwig; having insinuated himself into her esteem by such small presents as are most agreeable to children, and by always taking her part against her sisters, he at last took advantage of an opportunity to carry her off by stratagem, as the only method of obtaining her; knowing very well, that her parents would never have consented to any proposition of such a nature.

The young lady, who had been persuaded that she was to be privately married to the King, and that her parents were in the secret, was very much surprised at not seeing them for several days.

She insisted on a permission to make them a visit; and the King, who foresaw the consequence of an explanation, was very solicitous to have obtained their forgiveness, and to have settled all the articles with them before hand. He would not permit them to see their daughter, before they had given him the most solemn promise, not to come with her to any eclclaircissement that could cause her the least uneasiness.

As she joined all the qualities of an excellent wife to those of an agreeable mistress, the King was very happy in her possession, which did not last long enough to bring on satiety; she died after being brought to bed of her third child.

Of

Of the two sons and one daughter she left, the Duke is the only one now living; his sister died a child, and his brother was cut off in the bloom of youth.

The King, not being blest with any progeny in his marriage, was the more fond of these children, and solicitous of providing for their support and consideration in the world. He bought a regiment for each of the sons; the Duke has still the Ostrogothia Infantry, though the regiment has of late very seldom seen it's Colonel.

In the Prussian war the Duke laid down early proofs of his courage and skill as a commander. I have heard
him

him cited by experienced officers as a General whom they should like to be commanded by, and who they were sure would never expose the glory of the Swedish arms.

If children inherit the qualities of their parents with the resemblance of their features, the Duke cannot want that military genius, of which King Fredericus had in his youth given the most unequivocal proofs. Those who have yet preserved any remembrance of the late King, think they see his very picture in his son.

But as the King, in his latter years, was excluded from all occasions of exerting his military talents, so the Duke has
passed

passed the best part of his age in the leisure of a long peace enjoyed by his country.

Now, fixed by his employment in a part very remote from the stage of the present war, and even hindered by his rank of Field Marshal from accepting any subordinate command in the army, it is not likely that he will have the pleasure to serve his country under the judicious eyes of his Sovereign, in this violent crisis of the martial reputation of modern Sweden.

The Duke had lately finished his tour of Europe, when the present King mounted the throne of Sweden. The charms
and

and varied pleasures of, a young Court fixed the Duke at Stockholm; where he became a witness to the Revolution of 1772.

Though in his political creed he ever conformed himself to the party prevailing in the beginning of that Diet, as having been that of his father; yet he never took any active part in their operations.

The greatest number of his friends and the companies he frequented, were in the opposite party. There was a great personal esteem and attachment between him and Count Charles Scheffer, and they had very few secrets from each other. With all that, the confidence in
his

his character was so strong from the other side, that he was looked upon as the most proper person to intrust with the care of public welfare, untill matters could be settled between the King and the Diet, in case the measures taken on both sides should have turned out to the advantage of the latter.

I very much doubt, whether the Duke had any knowledge of the honour destined him; but such was the common voice among the party at the time. One would be apt to conclude the intentions were not very bad, when for their execution the choice was fixed upon a person of his unsuspected principles.

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The King, on his side, has also given the Duke the strongest proofs of esteem and friendship, in the honours and marks of trust conferred on him after the Revolution.

The public estimation is still such, that no honour and no alliance have been thought too high for the Duke of Hefsenstein, in the several reports that have been circulating on the subject of his marriage.

It is however probable that he will remain single, and that his rich inheritance will return to the family of his mother in Sweden.

There is one of her nieces who deserves

erves his particular attention, both in respect to her own most amiable qualities, and to the unbounded attachment of her father to the late King Fredericus.

This worthy relation of the Duke is a daughter of the late President Baron Broman, and married to Mr. Andrew Plomgren, a brother of the Baroness Pechlin.

Baron Broman had given sufficient proofs of his readiness to serve his Sovereign without exception, and had also for a long time the first place in the King's favour.

One of his considerable advantages was
the

the administration of the King's revenues from Hessia, amounting to a yearly sum of 30,000 guineas; and valued so low in Swedish money, that one sixth remained to the benefit of the Treasurer.

But he lived in such a princely stile, that at his death there was nothing left for his family. His mother in law, the Countess Taube, used to say, that God had bestowed on her son every advantage in this life, except his blessing.

The house of Baron Broman, with a magnificent saloon decorated to lodge the picture in full length of King Fredericus, is now in the possession of Baron Pechlin.

The

The only person now remaining of the family is the Baronefs v. Plomgren, who has alfo an only daughter, much refembling the lovely mother.

Of relations in the fourth and fifth degree the Duke has a great number in the firft families of the country.

CHAPTER XVIII.

AS in Sweden the Court is open to all strangers of consideration, it furnishes the best occasion for making acquaintances. Besides the persons belonging to the attendance of the Royal Family, the Drawing Room is always very numerous, as most part of the Nobility and higher Gentry reside in the capital during the winter; and it is a common rule with the ladies to appear at Court at least once every fortnight.

It is a pity that the most admired accomplishment in the fair sex should be
of

of so short a duration. Beauty passes almost with the same rapidity as the flowers, and the returning season may produce as fine ones, but not the same. A list of beautiful and fashionable ladies is therefore always liable to exceptions. I only answer for the present year 1789.

I make haste to mention the Countess Ribbing, because her period is the nearest to an end. But it has also been of longer duration than what is the common lot of fashionable beauties, her reign having lasted almost these five and twenty years.

She was early married to the late Count Ribbing, Senator of the Kingdom, and

so agreeable a man, that a well known report, for some time, ascribed to him the most valuable conquest among the fair in Sweden; and though this was not founded in truth, it is always a proof of the common opinion in his favour.

But his young spouse was too charming an object to be left entirely to the adoration of a husband. A pretty face, a most elegant shape, an air of coquetry, and engaging manners, attracted a great number of admirers.

It was a common report that her brother in law, Baron Ribbing, had paid her his addresses from her first appearance in the world, with a decided intention to
 marry

marry her, and had thought himself encouraged in his hopes; but during his embassy to the Court of Russia, she gave the preference to his brother, who knew nothing of the rivalry. Baron Ribbing did not long survive this event; and many good-natured people pitied him, as a supposed victim of a faithful and unhappy attachment.

A French Ambassador in Sweden, who has since acted a great part in the Ministry of his own country, made for some time very frequent visits, which did not escape the malicious observations of the public. Count Ribbing was the more shocked, at these rumours, as his well known contrariety to the French in-

terest left no room for a supposition of his having any share in the attention paid to his house. He therefore made no secret of his earnest desires of getting rid of those civilities. His valet de chambre, entering into the resentment of his master, took it into his head to put a stop to the Ambassador's visits; and watching him at a very late hour, took him in the dark for a house breaker, and with the assistance of a footman received him in such a manner, that he did not think proper to expose himself any more to an adventure of the same kind.

Though frequent visits to a fair lady are very apt to be misrepresented, it is possible that those of the Ambassador had

none

none but a politic object: the Countess very early espoused the French interest, and all the Ambassadors from that Court have been her daily visitors. It cannot be supposed that they all had any share in her particular favours.

The public voice has been very lavish in bestowing favorites on this lady. The first personages in the kingdom have most of them, one time or other, been named on her account. Baron Maclean, an officer of distinction in the Foot Guards, was publicly reprimanded by Colonel Koenig, for employing too much of his time at the toilette of Countess Ribbing. It is true that the Baron replied in such a manner, that nobody has since thought fit

to make him the same reproach, though his visits have continued full as frequent as before.

As the Countess has, for a long time, been the absolute sovereign of fashion in dress and way of living, and always kept up a strict decency of appearance, her house is the general rendezvous of the polite world; and young ladies, even of the severest virtue, are desirous of her acquaintance and protection.

But all of her female friends have not observed the same prudence in their conduct. The Baroness Durietz, though perhaps in fact equally innocent, left early her reputation a prey to the censures of the world,

world. In the first brightness of her beauty she had the glory of fixing an illustrious lover, whom many of her sex have in vain employed all their charms to captivate. As she was then living confined in the country, he made a long journey to pay her a secret visit: he had found means to inform her of the hour he was to come; but either she doubted his exactness, or was not enough mistress of her own measures, as he found her, at his arrival, engaged in company with Baron Charles Sparre, and had strong suspicions she did not wish to be disturbed. He therefore withdrew as fast as he came, and never took notice of her any more.

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I don't know how she excused herself to the Countess Ribbing, whom she made the confidant of her misfortune; but the Countess took pity on her so far as to interest herself in her favour: she made a very splendid entertainment in compliment to the offended lover; and when he expressed his satisfaction at the charming attention paid him by the Countess, she took the opportunity of pleading the cause of her unhappy friend, and with a tender and supplicating look asked him "to forgive the poor Charlotte." But he, with the greatest politeness, answered, that "as he had no right to take any offence, so there was no occasion for his forgiveness." He ever avoided any further explanation. However, a long time after,

when

when it could no more be of consequence; he has behaved to her in a manner to persuade her he has forgot the affront.

Another elegant lady is the Countess Degeer of Finspong. The charms of her person, as well as her agreeable manners, have attracted a great number of admirers, of whom several have been supposed not to sigh in vain: and in this age of malice, such a supposition is almost looked upon as a certainty. She appears regularly every winter at Court, and having made several new acquaintances, the most agreeable among them are invited in the summer to her magnificent country seat; which having all the beautiful appearance of
Armida's

Armida's renowned island, is supposed to be inhabited by the same enchantments.

The Countess Degeer of Loeffla, the lady of Baron Charles Degeer, has very fine eyes, and most remarkably fine hands. The public have remarked the assiduities of Baron Cederhielm Captain in the Light Dragoons, Baron Stierneld and others, but without any reflection injurious to her reputation.

The Countess Degeer of Froetuna, Lady of the Senator Baron Emanuel Degeer, and a sister to the Graces before mentioned, is a very regular beauty, and of the most free and easy manners.

As

As her countenance bears the most charming expressions of an innocent heart, she has ever been respected by the public; and she is cited as an example both of social agreement and domestic virtues.

There is now one more Countess Degeer, daughter of the Senator Count Bielke, and lately married to Baron Lewis Degeer. She is a beautiful young lady, and has sisters equally remarkable for a handsome figure. Their mother, a daughter to the late Senator Baron Duben, has been always equally as respected for her conduct as admired for her personal qualities. Her sister, the Countess Possé, one of the Queen's Ladies of Honour, has also a most charming

ing daughter, who is in the Court of the
Duchefs.

The young Baronefs v Effen, daughter of Baron Charles Degeer, is entitled to a diftinguifhed place among a family of beauties; ſhe was alfo the object of a very warm conteft between two of the handfomeft young men among the Swediſh Nobility, her preſent huſband and the Count Ribbing, a ſon to the late Senator. The King thought fit to ſeparate them, for fear of the confequence, and the Count was ſent on duty in a remote place. But he at laſt gave up his pretenſions, declaring that he never would marry a lady who could heſitate in her choice.

The

The Countess Dohna is a sister to the Barons Degeer, and is a young widow by the death of the late General Count Dohna. Her daughter in law, the Countess Ridderstolpe, is entitled to a distinguished place among the beauties of the capital. For several years after her marriage, there was not the least suspicion on her virtue, and the well known distich, that has since amused the malignity of the public, is perhaps nothing more than a frolic of some satyrical genius : for with all the common prepossession of the ladies in favour of his Excellency Baron Charles Sparre, it would be very strange if a beauty, who has resisted the persecutions of young admirers, should give up her reputation to a lover turned of sixty. If this story be deemed

deemed fictitious, another, that her husband was consoled by the Baroness Sinclair, falls by the same argument.

It has not been suspected where the Baron found consolation, if not in meditation and science. He is an officer of vast knowledge and experience, acquired mostly in the French service. In the few years which have elapsed since his return to Sweden, he has been advanced to the rank of a General and Commander in Chief of the artillery. He is the author of the new instructions for the officers in the Swedish army, which is looked upon as a treasure of military science; but is so deep and compounded, that it is doubted
whether

whether it has ever been perfectly understood by any one, if not perhaps by himself.

While I am upon the subject of learned officers, I cannot omit mentioning the Chief Admiral of the Swedish navy, Count Ehrensvaerd, a son to the justly celebrated General Ehrensvaerd, who vindicated the honour of the Swedish arms in the Prussian war, has secured the frontiers of the kingdom by the admired fortifications of Sweaborg and Landskrona, covered the shores by a fleet of gallies, and immortalized his name in so many services done his country.

His son manifesting in his youth a great disposition for drawing, his father thought

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him

him fit for the study of architecture, and had him educated in that science. He has presented the learned world with a Theory of beauty, which almost at every line requires the explanations of the author. It is presumed they will be published in another volume. The works of his pencil want no explication. He excels equally in humorous caricatures and in the most elegant drawings.

The Admiral's lady, a daughter of the General Count Sparre, was highly valued at Court, when Maid of Honour to the Princess, and she is equally esteemed for her conduct in the married state. She is tall and fair, and bears a strong resemblance to her brother, who is a Captain in the

Light

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light dragoons of the King's Guards, and
is of a very respectable character.

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C H A P T E R X I X .

THE Countess Lantinghusen, daughter of the Senator Count Stockenstroem, is a lady of the most beautiful shape, but somewhat dark complexion. She was a Maid of Honour to the Queen when Princess Royal; and though her Majesty had afterwards married ladies for her attendants, the Countess staid at Court as unmarried, till the return of Baron Lantinghusen from the tour of Europe; having been engaged to him before he quitted Sweden.

Her husband is a Nobleman of a very
worthy

worthy character, but of rather too ferious a turn of mind, for which he was in his younger years very much rallied by his charming cousins, the daughters of Count Charles Fersen, who occupied a part of his spacious house. But he always preferred solid occupations, to the agreeable trifles which commonly make the subjects of conversation with young ladies. Drawing and engraving were the amusements of his leisure hours, and by continual application he has acquired a great facility in those arts. He was not much above twelve years old, when he engraved the two great landscape pieces, dedicated to his uncle Count Charles Fersen.

There has lately appeared a translation

of his, *Young's Night Thoughts*, in which the Swedish language approaches very near to the energy of the original.

He is a Colonel in the Swedish army; but having left the service thro' some discontent before the war, it is not likely he will enter again into a career, where there are so many other officers who stand in need of making their fortunes, while he enjoys an independant one by inheritance.

His father was the late Field Marshal Baron Lantinghusen, who married the only sister of the Counts Ferfen. She was promised to the General Baron Loeven, but her mother having had some cause of displeasure

displeasure against him, and knowing the young lady's disposition in favour of the other, who was a distant relation of the family, she one day sent a message to the steward of her nearest country house, that he should directly come to town, together with the vicar of the parish. As soon as they came, they were locked up in a room till the arrival of Baron Lantinghusen, whom she had invited to sup with her. She told nothing of her design, neither to him nor her daughter, before she introduced them to the parson; whom, after a few questions to the parties concerned, she desired to read the nuptial benediction; no other witnesses being present than herself, the steward, and the young lady's nurse. After the cere-

mony thus performed, and handsome presents being given to the clergyman and witnesses, they were all put into her own coach and carried out of town, before they had an opportunity to speak to any body. The secrecy being of the utmost consequence, as there had been a formal promise of marriage between the bride and Baron Loeven, who would have reclaimed her as his lawful wife, if he had got the least notice of it that day. But the day after it was too late. The disappointed lover went in a great fury and violently exclaimed against these proceedings; but some serious representations made him by his happy rival, brought him at last to a reasonable composition.

Of

Of this marriage there was only two children, the present Baron Lantinghusen, and a most amiable daughter, who was married to Baron Klinkowstroem, and died in childbed by a sudden joy, on seeing her husband unexpectedly return from a journey. Baron Klinkowstroem has since married the eldest daughter of Count Axel Ferfen, and is now President in the Supreme Court of Justice at Wismar.

Baron Lantinghusen had for the constant companion of his youth Baron Stael v. Holstein, now Swedish Ambassador at the Court of France. The sentiments which united these two young Noblemen are a sufficient proof, that conformity of characters is no necessary ingredient in friendship.

friendship. One is serious and solid, the other chearful and agreeable. Not that Baron Stael wants solidity; he has given several instances of his great abilities in serious business, especially during the visit of his master at the French Court; but his amiable qualities are by far more apparent than the solid ones, and it is perhaps to this happy disguise is owing his preferment. It is a common opinion that he has obtained his place by the interest of the Court of France; and it is obvious that it must have been from some other motive than his skill in politics.

The chain of circumstances which have made him an Ambassador at so early a period of his life, is this. During his
 stay

stay at Paris in company with Baron Lantinghusen, his cheerfulness, sensibility, and, perhaps, his figure, acquired him so many agreeable acquaintances in that capital, that he could not resolve to leave it so soon as his friend; who having his bride waiting for him in Sweden, would not spend any longer time on his tour than he had once fixed in his mind. The latter Nobleman therefore returned, and Baron Stael staid at Paris, where he was more and more tied by the friendship shewn him from people of the first note; among whom he had inspired so strong an interest in his favour, that they could not part with him no more than he with them. It is to their influence he is indebted for his place, and perhaps for his marriage

marriage with the only daughter of Mr. Necker, as the surest means of fixing him among them.

Many have been envied with less apparent reason; but he is so generally esteemed and beloved, even in his own country, that every body seemed to enjoy the smiles of fortune on her worthy favourite.

I have only seen the picture of the young Baroness, and to judge after that, her person must be very agreeable. I have been told, by those who know her, that her accomplishments are equal to her supposed fortune; and that is certainly a great deal.

I do

I do not know if this lady intends to visit the Court of Sweden, but I am very certain that she would be satisfied with the reception she would meet with. To say nothing of what is due in particular to the celebrity of her father, the rank of her husband and her own qualifications, there are few Courts where more attention is paid in general to foreign ladies, than at present in Sweden.

There was, a few years ago, a young French lady married to a Swedish Nobleman; and though just peeping out of the convent she found herself transplanted into a brilliant Court, she gave herself the greatest importance, decided on matters of taste and literature, and was looked upon

as

as an oracle. Her place among the Queen's ladies she owed perhaps to the consideration of her family and that of her husband; but what may certainly be regarded as particular to herself, was the great attention shewn to her from the King; which though perhaps only the effect of a politeness natural in him, especially to strangers, caused a great deal of chat within the Court, insomuch that a friend of her husband advised him to beware of the destiny of Peleus, who had a son greater than himself.

Another French lady, of less distinction in regard to her birth, but very much esteemed for her qualities and behaviour, is married to Baron Stierncrona, one of
the

the Queen's Chamberlains. This lady is not only invited to Court as regularly as the first Countess in the kingdom, but has also her apartments at Drottningholm, the Versailles of Sweden, where the Royal Family passes five or six months of the year. I have seen the King, with all the condescension of the most polite beau, stoop to take up her fan, which she happened to drop; and upon her motion to prevent him, he made her the most friendly reproaches for not considering the state she was in, and not knowing the duties of a married lady.

Among those who may be regarded as the ornaments of the female world in
Sweden

Sweden, very few may contest the first place with the Countess Wachtmeister, the lady of the Senator and Chief Justice of the Kingdom. With a beautiful face, and a tall, elegant figure, her character and behaviour have never given occasion to the least censure. Her family name is Sparre, and she is a niece to the Countess Ferfen, Grand-Governess of the Queen's Court.

The Countess Falkenberg, a sister to the Baron Wachtmeister already mentioned, has ever been looked upon in the same light as the Countess Wachtmeister is now regarded. The young ladies Falkenberg, her daughters, are just entered

tering into the world, and do honour to their birth and education.

Among other very young ladies, and as yet respected by the public voice, the most remarkable are:

The Countess Spärre, daughter to his Excellency Count Bunge, and married to H. E. Baron Frederic Sparre; she is a very agreeable and well educated young lady, as well as the Baronefs Rolamb, formerly Miss Adlerfelt, a niece to the lady whom Baron Sparre first married. His Excellency has also two daughters, of whom one is now Baronefs Wrangel. They are both of them distinguished by all the accomplishments of the most liberal education.

The Countess Froelich, daughter to Baron Bunge, has a regular Grecian face, and a great deal of innocence and goodness in her looks; she has also a very good shape for a middle stature.

The Countess Cronhielm, daughter to the famous Baron Pechlin, is of a tall and easy stature, has remarkably fine black eyes, and her face of a handsome oval. What does honour to her sense and education, is that she has, from her earliest youth, been very much taken notice of both by the King and Queen, who neither of them often speak to any unmarried lady.

Her sister in law, Lady Gustava Cronhielm,

hielm, is a remarkable fair beauty, and resembles much her mother, the Countess Cronhielm, formerly Lady of the Bed Chamber.

The young Countess Horn and her sister Miss Linnerhielm, are of different complexions, the Countess is fair, and the other a brunette; but they were about the age of fifteen so equally charming that it was impossible to say which had the advantage; one would always give the preference to her one had seen the last.

The Countess Rosen, and her sister the Baroness Ruth, both of a short stature, but very agreeable figure, are daughters to

Mr. Wahrendorff, proprietor of the cannon foundry at Akersbruk, and several other iron works.

The Baroness Rudbeck, daughter of Baron Axelson, has a very regular and handsome face, but is also of a very short stature.

The two daughters of the late Secretary of State Wadenskierna, are both of them very good figures, but rather of diminutive proportion.

That fault is not to be found with the two nieces of the Senator Count Hermansson. They are both of them remarkably tall as well as handsome. The
eldest

eldest is going to be married to Captain Terfmeden.

The youngest daughter of the late Senator Count Wrangel, has a very elegant shape, and great delicacy in her features. The eldest daughter of Colonel Montgomery is of stouter composition, but is upon the whole a handsome young lady.

The three daughters of Count Stackelberg are all very handsome.

The daughter and very picture of the Countess Hoepken, will now very soon be presented at Court; and there are a great number of beauties growing up,

L 3 who

who will soon remind us of the blooming years of their respective mothers.

To return to the ladies who are more known in the world, there is one of remarkable beauty, the Countess Hamilton, a daughter of the late Mr. Peterfen, who was unjustly persecuted at the Diet of 1765. For so handsome a lady, she has been very little exposed to the remarks of envy; only that it has been doubted, whether the great friendship she professed for a young Countess lately deceased, was not occasioned by a greater regard for the Count her husband.

Her elder sister married to the Colonel Baron Klingspor, though a very charming
ing

ing lady, has never had any adventures put upon her account; nor her younger sister, the Baronefs Duben. Their husbands also are both of them very accomplished gentlemen.

Their sister in law, Mrs. Petersens, formerly Miss Forbus, was one of the greatest beauties of her time. Her three daughters are also reckoned very handsome. The eldest is lately married to Count Schwerin.

The lady of the Secretary of State Schroederheim is remarkable for her wit and agreeable humour, good taste in her dress, and easy politeness to every body. As she always receives a great deal of

company in her house, it is difficult to distinguish any of her particular favourites.

The lady of the Master of the Ceremonies Fredhenheim, is of an agreeable figure, and great acquired accomplishments. She is the daughter of an eminent merchant, Mr. Hebbe, who will leave her one of the largest fortunes in the country; she is a distinguished performer on the harpsichord, and the only one compared to the young Baronefs Wrangel.

Miss Oernshoeld, daughter to a very respectable nobleman, Baron Oernshoeld of Malmwik, is of a good figure, though not handsome face; and her modesty on that account may be cited as an example.

At

At a Masquerade she was very much persecuted by a fashionable beau, who, charmed by her witty and agreeable conversation, pretended to die with impatience to see her face. She told him she would not comply with his request for fear of losing at once all the good opinion he now pretended to entertain in her favour, because she thought herself the most ugly person among her equals in the capital. “No, Madam,” answered he, “do yourself more justice; it is impossible you could be uglier than Miss Oernshoeld.” She had good sense enough to laugh heartily at the compliment, which also every unprepossessed person must think an unjust one. It is true she is very much marked with the small pox, but she has
pretty

pretty eyes, and her features are far from being disagreeable. The gentleman was the more confounded at his mistake, as he was a frequent visitor at the house of her parents, who have always been looked upon as very agreeable, and where he was received with the greatest politeness. But such gratitude is very common in the pretended polite world.

The Baroness, her mother, has also been unmercifully rallied on account of her passion for gaming. There are stories told by young people who have been invited to her suppers, and made her parties at cards at home and abroad, how she often has ordered her coach for midnight, and kept it waiting in the coldest winter till four or six in the morning; how one coach-

man

man and several horses have been starved with cold; without disturbing her attention at the gaming table, not to mention other exaggerations upon this subject.

To compleat the picture, several respectable characters, who make more constantly her parties at L'hombre, have been charged in the same manner. There is a known story upon the account of a nobleman of the first consideration in the kingdom, how one day waiting for his dinner longer than usual, and not finding even the cloth laid, he went down on purpose to scold the servants, who faithful in following the example of their master, were all engaged at cards; and upon his reproaches, excused themselves with being now at the
 most

most interesting point of the game. The butler being the most deeply concerned, took the liberty to explain the case to his Excellency, who in conscience could not but approve his reasons; but being unwilling to wait the issue for having his dinner, he sent the butler to prepare the table, while he himself condescended to sit down with the others, and take care of the interest of the absent party, until the game was finished.

CHAPTER XX.

A Drawing-Room at the Swedish Court ends commonly with a public supper for the Royal Family, who sit alone at table, all the Nobility and Officers of the Kingdom standing around as mere spectators; the Ladies of the Senators, and those of the same rank, having alone the privilege to be seated on *tabourets*, placed in a half circle in face of the King and Queen, at some distance from the table.

The Officers of the respective Courts stand directly behind the chair of the person

to whom they belong; the Senators at the King's left hand; and the Ambassadors, and other foreigners of distinction, on his right. The King speaks to every one in the order belonging to their rank, favour, or other circumstances.

The dishes are served and the plates presented to the Royal Family, by an Officer called Gentleman of the Court: This Officer is commonly Mr. v. Hauf-wolf, a very nice and elegant beau, but with all that a man of abilities, and having a post in the King's Chancery. The former part of his merit is also claimed by his comrade in the office at Court, Mr. Wallencreutz; but he never does any service; having been promoted
to

to that place merely in confideration of his father, who ventured to countersign the King's orders, as Secretary of State, during the three first days of the Revolution in 1772.

The Marshal is standing, during the whole entertainment, directly before the King; and the Director of his Majesty's Oeconomy a little to the right, behind him; though their presence is commonly not of the least use.

When the King has done, he makes a sign to the Queen, and to the rest of the Family, and all having answered with a bow, he rises from table, takes a most gracious leave, and returns to
his

his own apartments, followed by the Officers of his Court. The rest of the Royal Family do the same, according to the established order.

It is reckoned a considerable want of respect to retire before the Royal Family rise from table; and the fault is greater, in proportion to the rank of the guilty.

I dwell upon these particulars, because there is hardly a Court upon earth where formalities are more observed.

Of this the Prince of Holstein and designed Duke-Bishop of Lubeck made a disagreeable experience, on a friendly visit he paid to his Cousins of the Royal House

House of Sweden. Before he could appear any where, he was obliged to pay his first visit to the Prime Minister, Count Ulric Scheffer, who was not permitted to prevent him. By his means the Prince was presented at Court, and received with all the formality of an Ambassador. At the Public Supper he would have been obliged to stand a spectator with the rest of distinguished foreigners, if a little indisposition coming on a sudden, had not furnished an excuse for his absence. For all this the King gave a reason, which, as soon as formality should be observed, was perhaps a very good one: That the Swedish Senators were, since the time of Gustavus Adolphus, entitled to equal honours with all

the Princes of the empire below the rank of Electors; and in consequence, the Princes of the empire could not pretend to any other prerogatives in Sweden than what belonged to the Senatorial dignity in that kingdom.

The Queen Dowager did not trouble herself at all with enquiries about the rank of her guest; she received him cordially, as the nephew of her late husband, and with the marks of esteem due to a Prince whose qualities might do honour to any family in the world. To give him what she thought his right, without injuring that of any body else, she had the places at her table distributed by closed tickets; every person
took

took one, and placed himself according to the number thereof; but she had given secret orders that the number belonging to the place between her and the Princess should be reserved for the Prince, and put into the hat after all the others were drawn. Thus she paid him an agreeable compliment, without the least seeming affectation, or giving uneasiness to any person.

The Swedish dress gives an appearance of magnificence to the Court, without being half so expensive as the ordinary custom of Europe; with three or four suits of cloaths you may appear at every Drawing-Room for as many years: The colour and form being once

fixed, there is no room for variations.

The dress of the ladies differs very little from the present English fashion; except that the sleeves are cut in the Spanish manner, and tied with a ribbon about the middle of the upper part of the arm, a large sleeve of white gauze swelling out above and below the binding. The colour of the gown and coat is black, except on Gala days, when it is white; the *talbalas* and trimmings are always of the same colour with the suit. The head-dress and ribbons are the only parts left to the fancy of the sex.

The

The dress of the men is a mixture of the Spanish and that in use among the peasants in the Southern parts of Sweden. Their small-cloaths are in the ordinary form, and of the same colour with the coat and mantle; the former of which is close to the body, and very short, all buttoned and tied about the thighs with a sash. The mantle goes down below the knee, and hangs loosely on the back, though it is commonly wide enough to be thrown round like a Spanish mantle.

The ordinary colour is black; the mantle is lined with *couleur de feu*, or scarlet coloured silk, of the same stuff with the sash and waistcoat; all the seams

of the coat are also trimmed with the same, as well as a row of tongues which cover the seam that joins the sleeve to the coat, and adds to the breadth of the shoulders.

In mourning, the suit is all black; and on Gala days, of light blue silk, with white trimmings. It was in the beginning white, with red lining, fast, and trimmings; and for the ladies, white coats with red gowns; but some satirical wit having compared them to boiled crabs, they insisted upon having another colour; and to be sure none could be found to look so elegant as white, which had also been formerly received for

for solemn occasions at this Court, as well as in many others.

This uniformity of dress has a very good effect in the Drawing-Room, and strangers generally allow that it gives an air of grandeur, more striking than all the party coloured magnificence of other Courts; perhaps from the same reason, as it gives greater satisfaction to the eye to see a military corps in the most superb uniform, than with a richer apparel, and every one in different colours.

For the army, this dress was in the beginning very convenient, and better calculated for a cold climate than the

common European custom; but as it is at present, the length of the coat or jacket having been reduced from the middle of the thigh to the middle of the stomach, the girdle, commonly made of bunting, is seldom sufficient to cover the interval between the upper and lower garments, and the poor soldier is often in danger of perishing with cold: But it is very light in summer, and gives a smart appearance to young fellows of a good figure.

C H A P T E R XXI.

NEXT to the Court, the best place for making acquaintance is the Assembly held once a week or fortnight at the upper hall of the Exchange. It begins at six o'clock, and continues till ten or eleven; and you are sure to see most people of fashion in the capital. As soon as there are a sufficient number to form country dances, the music begins, and the hall is spacious enough for nine or ten dancing parties. There are also different rooms for gaming tables. About eight o'clock the Royal Family commonly appear, but without causing any interruption

ruption in the entertainments. The Queen with some of her Ladies usually go into one of the balconies, while the King, the Dukes and Princesses walk about the room, look on the dance, or honour some of the byestanders with their conversation.

The King makes the tour of the room, and takes notice of every person with the same exactness as in the Drawing-room; even of many ladies who have not been presented at Court, but are of distinguished families among the Clergy and Gentry; he honours also the most eminent in the trading line with his notice, such as Mrs. Warendorff, her sister Mrs. Langenberg, and niece Mrs. Arvidson; the two daughters of Mr. Conradi, married

married to Messrs. Koshell; Mrs. Hassel, Mrs. Reimers, and several others; who live in a very genteel stile, and whose education and personal qualities make their acquaintance courted by the best company in the capital.

From the institution of this Assembly by his Excellency Baron Charles Sparre, it was open to all company of respectable appearance without other formality than paying for the entrance. But the King has since ordered, that as the place is frequented by the Royal Family, people of a certain rank cannot appear there without having been presented at Court. This regulation however was not made public

public till the time of the adventure of the Countess Kagheneck.

This lady, the wife of the Ambassador from Vienna, being of a birth that entitled her to be saluted on the cheek by the Empress or Princesses of the Imperial family, would not submit to any other ceremonial, and to kiss the hand of the Queen and Princesses of the Court of Sweden thought it below her rank; for which reason her presentation had been deferred till these material points could be settled. But as her youth and sprightliness did not much agree with such a confinement, she thought she might at least enjoy the amusements of the inferior class of gentry in the country, and go to the Assembly; especially

cially as the room would be very much crowded, every body being very desirous to see the Queen, who was but lately come abroad after the birth of the Prince Royal.

As no one made the least objection to her scheme, she was highly delighted with the idea. She was introduced by her husband, and placed on a balcony, that she might have a better view of the room. I don't know if it was from ignorance, or some other reason, that she fixed on a place very near that which usually was reserved for the Queen.

The King, at his first entrance, was struck with the sight of the Countess;
and

and taking perhaps her appearance, and the place she occupied, as a sort of defiance, he ordered Mr. Plommerfelt, Master of the Ceremonies, to tell Count Kaghe-neck that it was not proper for his Lady to be in the same room with the Royal Family.

Mr. Plommenfelt, willing to give the easiest turn possible to an affair of that nature, went up to the Count, and told him in confidence, and as of his own will, that it was not usual for persons of such a rank to appear with the Royal Family before they had been duly presented, and therefore he took the liberty to give him the advice, leaving it to him-
self

self to make what use of it he should think proper.

The Count, perhaps from some personal dissatisfaction with Mr. Plommenfelt, told him very rudely that he had no advice to receive from him, and sent him about his business.

Mr. Plommenfelt returned to the King, and asked if it was his Majesty's intention that the Countess should leave the room, and having had an answer in the affirmative, he told the Count plainly the King's orders, and they were as punctually obeyed.

The Count represented this affair in such
a light

a light to his Court, that he was permitted to leave Stockholm immediately; and for several years the Emperor had no Ambassador in Sweden.

During the King's stay in Italy, the difference was accommodated. The Emperor paid him a visit early in the morning, and waited in the antichamber till the King was risen. The first words the Emperor said to him were, " You see how little I stand upon ceremony." The present Ambassador from Vienna, Count Stadion, has had no dispute of that kind,

Count Kagheneck's predecessor in the Embassy, Count Kaunitz, a son to the Prime Minister Duke of Kaunitz, and
a descen-

a descendant in the female line of the Royal family of Vasa, in Sweden, passed his time very agreeably at that Court. Being of an handsome figure, young, and very generous, he was a great favourite with the fair sex. At his first arrival in the country, he only found fault of the cheapness of living there, and was afraid he would not have any means of spending his revenues; but before he left Stockholm, I have been told, he was convinced of the contrary. Had he come a few years later, he would have found no reason for such a complaint. Stockholm is now perhaps, except London, the most expensive place in Europe.

The public entertainments however are

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no

no where cheaper. The first places at the play houses are half a crown, and the admission to the Assembly already mentioned is at the same price, including tea and other refreshments. The prices at the Opera are about ten pence higher; but this theatre may perhaps be reckoned the second of the kind in Europe, there being only that at Paris which exceeds it; and the superiority of the latter is more in the dancing part than in any other. There are however at present, in the Opera at Stockholm, a number of good dancers, as Messrs. Bournonville, Marcadet, Dilelot, and Uttini, Miss Baffi, Mrs. Alix, Miss Slotberg, Miss Aberg, and Miss Brelin; among whom the two latter have profited much by the example and instruction

instruction of Miss Baffi, who has herself been carefully brought up by Daubreval, a celebrated French master.

As to the beauty of figures, extent and flexibility of voices, justness of accompaniment, pathetic action, magnificence of dress, and illusion of scenery, the Swedish Opera is so little inferior to the French, that strangers, who have seen both, have in some respects lately given the preference to the former, especially for the beauty and finishing of the decorations, since that department has been under the care of Mr. Deprés, a celebrated French painter of architecture, and Mr. Bruffel, a native of Sweden, who has

employed himself entirely in scene painting.

When the late Queen Dowager came back from her visit at Berlin, she thought she had seen there a very good opera, and expressed some doubt whether the now established Swedish stage could enter into any comparison with it; but after having seen a representation of *Thetis and Peleus*, which notwithstanding is far from being the best of the Swedish operas, she could not help complimenting the King; though with some apparent censoriousness: wishing he might be equally successful in enterprizes of greater importance.

There has certainly been no want of
more

more important cares; yet the King has still kept up this institution, the expence of which is nearly twenty-five thousand pounds a year, out of his own pocket.

A more particular account of the Swedish Stage may perhaps not be disagreeable to the reader.

CHAPTER XXII.

DURING the reign of the late King Adolphus, the Court-Theatre was occupied by a band of French comedians, whom King Gustavus sent home to their country, as it appears, rather for their want of talents, than from any other motive; because a few years after, there was another band engaged, certainly not less expensive than the former.

But as every thing must be admired in a new reign, the abolition of the French Play was extolled as the first exertion of a patriotic spirit in the young Sovereign;

Sovereign; the more when he seemed to prefer some very indifferent Swedish comedies. These, by order, were represented at the Court Theatre, by a band of players who were the remainder of a very good one, formerly supported by a Senator, Count Wrangel, the late Count Hoepken, the Chamberlain Olthoff, and others, but greatly reduced by want of encouragement during the last reign; as there must always be made some allowance for the unavoidable imperfections of a new establishment, and the Queen had too refined a taste, to support any thing beneath the celebrated master-pieces of the French stage.

Though the old Mr. Stenborg, pro-

prietor of the privilege granted to this Swedish band, was himself in no great reputation, neither as a player or a manager, yet the Swedish stage is indebted to him for having preserved a sort of tradition of the art, and kept in exercise some very good subjects, without whom there would never have been a possibility of attempting the new establishment.

Among those, his son, Mr. Charles Stenborg, has been the most useful. Though his education and abilities put him very much above his father's theatrical performances, and he had already been provided with a place in the office of the Marshal of the Kingdom; yet
 having

having from the exercises of his first years preserved the habitude of an easy declamation, and joining to the advantage of a very good voice a remarkable skill in music, he was prevailed upon by the King to take a part in the opera of *Thetis and Peleus*; as soon as his Majesty, who can bear mediocrity no more than his mother could, had resolved to make up, at least by magnificence, what the Swedish stage might yet be deficient in other respects.

The young Mr. Stenborg would not accept the offer on other conditions, than that he might still preserve his former place; that the Opera should bear the name of a Royal Society for promoting
Music

Musical and Declamation, and that in consequence people of musical talents, above the station of common players, might be induced to appear with him on the stage. All these requests being granted, Mr. Stenborg undertook the part of Peleus, and prevailed upon Mrs. Olin, a celebrated musical lady and the wife of a lawyer of great reputation, to take the part of Thetis; that of Jupiter fell to Mr. Lalin, a Secretary of the same office with Mr. Stenborg; that of Neptune to Mr. Norden, Director of the Music to one of the principal churches; and so on with the rest.

The Poem was sketched by the King himself, and verified by Mr. Velandér, who

who was rewarded with a golden snuff-box containing a considerable present in money; and soon after he was also provided with a place among the Aldermen of the city of Stockholm, half the number of whom are lawyers, and the places in the gift of the King.

Mr. Uttini, composer of the music, had also a very handsome present; besides a pension of 500l. a year for life, after he quitted the place of Director of the Musical Band of the Court.

The play was acted twice a week for six months together, with an audience equally as numerous as in the beginning.

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The next opera was ACIS AND GALATEA, translated from the English, with some additions, by Mr. Lalin, and the Swedish words adapted to the music of the celebrated Handel. This piece, in a quite different taste from the former, had an equal success; being also acted by the same persons, with the addition of Mr. Bioerkman, Director of Music to the cathedral of Calmar. He is allowed to have no equal as Poliphemus in this opera, and as Hercules in Alceste; though in other pieces Mr. Swartling has filled the place of Mr. Bioerkman with a great deal of success.

ORPHEUS AND EURYDICE was the next.

In

In this opera the music of Gluck was universally applauded; but the words, translated from the Italian by a native of Italy, with the assistance of a Swedish physician, proved a very strange piece of poetry. In this opera the eldest Miss Olin, and the son of Mr. Lalin, have alternately filled the part of Cupid, with equal applause. Miss Olin has retired from the stage, but the young Mr. Lalin has since been the admiration of the public for one of the finest voices that ever was heard on the Swedish theatre, in the part of Orpheus, from the new translation of this opera by Mr. Ristel, Librarian to his Majesty.

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The following pieces were also brought out at the Opera House :

SILVIE, translated from the French by Baron Manderstroem, late Marshal of the Queen's Court, and Commander of the Royal Order of the Polar Star. Mr. Lalin adapted the Swedish words to the music of Messrs. Berton and Trial.

EGLE, represented in the year 1774 and NEPTUNE AND AMPHITRITE, in the year 1775, two small operas by Mr. Adlerbeth, Secretary to his Majesty, and Knight of the Polar Star. The music by the late Mr. Johnsen.

ALINE QUEEN OF GOLCONDA, a very
happy

happy imitation of a well known French opera. It is the work of Mr. Zibet, his Majesty's Secretary, Member of the Regency in the German Provinces, and Knight of the Polar Star. He is also the author of a charming prologue to the opera of Orpheus and Euridice. The music to the Queen of Golconda is composed by Mr. Uttini.

In ADONIS by Mr. Flintberg, and CEPHALUS AND PROCRIS by Mr. Adlerbeth, there appeared, a new actress, Mad. Augusti, whose excellent voice and happy memory have since been very useful to the stage.

AMPHION, with a Prologue, both of
them

them by Mr. Adlerbeth, and set to music by Mr. Nauman, Director of the Musical Band at the Court of Dresden. This composer, who is remarkable for the great sensibility expressed in his music, was proposed by the Countess Loeyenhjelm, at her return from that Court; and he was in consequence engaged to compose the music of this opera, with which very few have had an equal success. In this piece appeared, for the first time, Mr. Karsten, who has since been the only rival of Mr. Stenborg for the partiality of the public.

IPHIGENIA IN AULIS, translated from the French by Baron Manderstroem, and the words adapted to the music of Gluck by Mr. Lalin. In this opera have successively

cessively appeared the two best actresses on the Swedish stage, Mrs. Marcadet and Miss Stading. The former is now more admired in the parts of Queen, and acts commonly that of Clytemnestra, since the latter is looked upon as incomparable in that of Iphigenia, as well as in all other personages where youth and beauty are required.*

ALCESTE, the celebrated production of Gluck. The two first acts were translated from the Italian by Captain Hertzenhjelm, and the third from the French by Mr. Kellgren; the words are adapted to the music by Mr. Lalin.

* Of those who have hitherto appeared, Miss Jnga Aberg seems to come the nearest to Miss Stading.

This piece was looked upon as the most interesting theatrical production that ever appeared in Sweden; and much of its success was attributed to the appearance of a new actress from Copenhagen, Mrs. Muller, to whose figure, voice, and pathetic delivery, was ascribed the surprising impression her personage made upon the audience. Every one knows, that the authors of the poem and the music may always claim a good share in the praises on this piece, but it must also be allowed that Mrs. Muller has a great deal of merit, especially in pathetic parts, and has had equal success both in *Iphigenia in Tauris*, and in *Armida*; though she has perhaps appeared to less advantage in the *Queen of Golconda*, *Angelique*, and
other

other characters, where there is required more art than passion.

Miss Lilliegren, a native of Finlandia, is also a very good actress in the same line, though not so much in favour with the public as Mrs. Muller.

Alceste was the last opera given at the old theatre; the new magnificent play-house facing the palace of the Princess Royal, in the square prepared for the equestrian statue of Gustavus Adolphus, was opened with the representation of CORA, a very interesting as well as pompous opera; the subject taken from Marmontel's well known American Tale, has been embellished with all the charms of

poetry by Mr. Adlerbeth, upon a plan regulated by the King. His Majesty has also been pleased to employ the pen of two other eminent poets upon subjects chosen and put in order by himself, viz. Mr. Kellgren in two operas, GUSTAVUS VASA, and GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS, and Mr. Leopold in FRIGGA, a beautiful subject from the ancient History of Sweden. They have all had a very good success; but none so much as Gustavus Vasa, which is also the most regular piece. The crowd at the playhouse was so great, that it was not possible to have a place without having one's name inscribed at least a month before; and the audience would still be equally numerous after near fifty representations, if they had not been discontinued,

continued; I don't know why; if not, as it is commonly believed, in compliment to the Danish Court. But I think it impossible the Danes should take any offence from a piece, in which the only personage of their nation, the Admiral Severin Norby, is one of the noblest characters that ever appeared on the stage. As to Christiernus II. they can take the less interest in him, as his fate was equally in Denmark as in Sweden, to be deprived of a Royalty disgraced by his conduct. The music of Gustavus Vasa, as well as that of Cora, established the reputation of Mr. Nauman, already founded by his Amphion; I mean in respect to Sweden; for in other parts of Europe he was already known.

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With

With all that, Gluck has the greatest number of admirers among the composers known in Sweden; and his *IPHIGENIA IN TAURIS*, as well as *ARMIDA*, both translated by Mr. Ristel and adapted to the music without the least alteration, have been very much followed. *ROLAND*, and *ATYS*, both also translated by Mr. Ristel, with the same respect to the music of Mr. Piccini, met with a less general approbation, when his *ELECTRA*, set to music by Mr. Häffner, a young imitator of Gluck, has been more favourably received.

I do not know if any general conclusion may be drawn from the opinion prevailing in Sweden on this subject; but

but every country, which has the means to afford an opera, can make the same experiment, by translating into their own language the pieces set to music by this and other celebrated masters; and by repeated observations, drawn from the effects upon the feelings of the public, bring into system the principles of judging pictures in sounds, as well as those in words and colours. For such a purpose as well as for the greater pleasure of the audience, it is necessary that the language should be more generally understood than the Italian is, or can be, either in England, Germany, or Russia, where now the transalpine trebles are in possession of the musical stage.

The principal objection* that can be made against a National Opera is, that no such singers as the Italian Virtuofos can be found in any other nation. To this the answer is very easy, if it may be allowed as a general rule: that every pleasure by means deviating from nature must arise from a depraved taste. Why should it be thought more agreeable in a man to have the voice of a woman, than in a woman to have the voice of a man? The difference established by nature are the only sources of true pleasure; and every person who has heard at Paris or at Stockholm the Duos of Alceste

* One more could be made, that all languages are not equally apt for music; but all languages are proper to express the accents of the soul. The French is perhaps less musical than any other, and yet the French Opera is the best in it's kind.

and

and Admetus, of Roland and Angelique, of Armida and Hidraoth, or that of Agamemnon and Achilles; the Trio of Iphigenia, Oreste, and Pilades, and even the Finale of the third act in the same opera, will defy all the Signori in the world to produce any such effect. A male character must always be expressed in a male voice; the contrast with the softness and delicacy peculiar to the other sex is thus rendered the more striking; and we all agree that monotony is the greatest enemy to pleasure. But such an imitating creature is man, that we often adopt a fashionable opinion even in contradiction to our own senses.

I know there are philosophers who
pretend

pretend that music should be entirely out of question in a dramatic entertainment, because it must either express the same thing as the words, or something foreign to the sentiments; and that in the first case it is superfluous, and in the other quite destructive to the effect. This latter should certainly be avoided; but as to the former case, I have heard those, who delight in music, agree, that it often serves to enforce the sentiment, and leaves a deeper impression in the soul, than the same words repeated without music. With people who are insensible to melody by want of a musical sense, there is no reasoning upon the subject, any more than upon colours with those deprived of sight.

Besides

Besides the operas already represented on the Swedish Stage, there are several others ready; among which Dido and Eneas, sketched by the King, written by Mr. Kellgren, and set to music by Mr Krause successor of Mr. Uttini, is expected with great impatience. Before this opera was known, Mr. Uttini was already at work with another upon the same subject, under the name of Eneas at Carthago, written by Mr. Ristel; and as the poems were found of a turn totally different, the King had permitted that the latter should also be represented. The parts were distributed for the rehearsal of both, before the breaking out of the present war; which having opened another canal of expences, will probably for some time put off the representation

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presentation of any new operas, especially as there is already a sufficient number to keep up a continual variation, all the year round.

CHAP.

C H A P T E R XXIII.

SATISFYING as this entertainment is to all the rational senses of man, it was some time neglected for a set of expatriated French players the King had engaged in his service: They were at first only to exercise their talents before their Majesties and the Court, and a saloon in the Royal Palace was fitted up for the purpose; but as the King seldom misses an occasion to mark particular attentions, the Nobility and some of the principal Officers in the different departments of Administration were, by turn, invited to the French Play; and the

the frequency of those invitations were looked upon as the standard of the person's favour and credit at Court.

The happy mortals who were admitted to this entertainment, did not undervalue its excellency in their report. The curiosity and clamours of the public were raised to such a degree, that it was thought best to transport the new French stage to the old playhouse, and admit every one who chose to pay for the entrance.

Now there arose another difficulty: The demands for places were so numerous, that not the fourth part could be satisfied; and the Swedish Opera, on the contrary,

contrary, was quite deserted. This occasioned new regulations: that those who took places for the year at the Opera should have a right of preference at the other house. This gave the advantage to those who could afford to pay both, and the number of pretenders was considerably reduced. But such is the power of pre-occupation, that many of the boxes at the Opera, which had been thus forcibly taken, stood empty at the representations of *Alceste* and *Iphigenia*; when the beams of the other Play-house bowed under the weight of a most numerous audience, at a tragedy poorly recited, or couplets out of tune and measure.

'Tis

'Tis neither my intention, nor in my power, to depreciate the talents and merits of some among the members of this dramatical band; but their great superiority was often detrimental to the whole, in the same measure, as it put into a stronger light the deficiency of the rest.

The heat of enthusiasm abating by degrees, the public, in the course of a year, at last observed, that a great familiarity with the language was required for to enjoy all the delicacies of a dramatical entertainment; and the audience was within a short time reduced to the number of those, who living within the Court, had free entrance, and of some others who were in expectation of preferment,

and

and very few who understood French well enough to feel the beauties of the poetry, and the merit of the performance.

This state of affairs gave birth to the idea of introducing the Swedish language instead of the French, in tragedies and comedies, to which the public opinion seemed still to give preference before the Opera. This had been attempted by Count Charles Ferfen some years before; when the tragedy of Iphigenia, by Mr. Adlerbeth, Athalia, by Mr. Muhrberg, Birger Jarl, by Count Gyllenborg, and Merope, by Mr. Ristel, had been represented with great success; but most

part of the performers belonging to the Opera, wanted to be paid separately for this extra business; they pretended their loss of time, and at last, when there was little prospect of any augmentation in their salaries, they complained also that the efforts of declamation proved hurtful to their voice, and begged to be exempted from appearing in tragedies.

Mr. Ristel, who from being continually present at the rehearsals in the house of Count Fersen, and encouraged by him to write for the stage, had taken the same zeal for theatricals, and employed most part of his time upon that kind of literature, without reaping any
benefit

benefit from so many years labour,* thought now the occasion favourable for executing the scheme of his deceased patron, in establishing a Swedish Stage upon the model of the French Comedy at Paris.

But as it required time for finding out and forming actors capable to support any such institution, and also for re-imbursing the first expences, Mr. Ristell obtained for himself a privilege of six years; and to engage men of genius in the poetical way to furnish the stage with pieces, the benefit of three representations was allotted to the author of every tragedy or comedy in five or three acts;

* I conclude that, from having heard his gratuitous assiduity admired by the Directors themselves.

besides two prizes, one of thirty and one of fifteen guineas, for those among the plays represented in the course of every year, which should be found the best in the judgment of the Swedish Academy.

The King granted the use of the old playhouse with the scenery, and the loan of cloaths from the magazine of the Opera; which last advantage was however very much reduced by those who had the administration of that stage.

As soon as this project was known, it met with a great deal of contradiction from the fashionable world. Those who had made very free in ridiculing of others, did not chuse to see the compliment

ment returned, as might possibly be the consequence of a National Stage. The institution was thus condemned as contrary to good manners, and destructive of all established order in society. People of knowledge and of a sounder judgment, made an objection of more weight, taken from the nature of the Swedish language; as having two different pronunciations, one in which every letter in a word is heard just as it is written, which is adopted for the pulpit and other branches of oratory; the other established by custom for common use, has a great number of abbreviations, and even in several instances deviates from the rules of grammar. Now it is almost impossible, in studying a part, to avoid the literal pronunciation,

ciation, which also answers very well in a tragedy; but in a comedy, where the dialogue must have the mode of an ordinary conversation, that strict and formal way of pronouncing the words is shocking to the ear, in the same proportion as it deviates from common use. Whence it was concluded, that a comedy in the Swedish language could never have that natural and easy air, which is required in such a kind of entertainment; and without comedies, it would be impossible to keep up the institution.

To remove this objection in the very beginning, Mr. Ristel resolved to open the new Swedish Stage with a comedy: and having composed one in imitation of
the

the well known French piece, *Le Cercle, de Poinfinet*, in which the idiom of conversation was followed as nigh as possible, he had the parts copied with the same spelling as they should be recited on the stage. By this method, the formal and solemn pronunciation was avoided, and the speech rendered more natural and familiar to the ear. Though this precaution proved almost unnecessary, for most part of the performers, being people accustomed to good company and of a liberal education, and prompted by a laudable zeal consented to mount the stage, to support an enterprize calculated for the culture of the language and the advantage of belles-lettres, as much as for the amusement of the public.

The privilege was granted in April 1787, and in the beginning of June the same year, the stage was opened with a representation of the comedy already mentioned, and a preceding scene by way of prologue adapted to the occasion. This was so well received, that it was called upon to be recited twice; and the whole entertainment met with the most general approbation.

The King was so well pleased with the performers, that he took the most flattering notice of them all; and they were the same summer honoured with a command to attend at Drottningholm, to represent a pompous drama, composed by Mr. Kellgren upon a plan given by his Majesty.

Majesty. This was executed to the satisfaction of the Court, as well as several comic pieces of their own repertory for the stage of the capital.

Within the space of one year, sixteen new pieces were represented; among which the most successful were *Siri Brahe*, and *Helmfeld*, both subjects taken from the history of Sweden, and masterly treated by an illustrious author; who, though easily known by the superiority of his style, has not permitted himself to be named.

Thus far Mr. Ristel had reason to be satisfied with the success of his enterprize. But as no judgment can be formed upon talents before they have had occasion to
 exert

exert themselves, and he had been obliged
 to engage in the beginning thirty or forty
 persons who afterwards proved of no use,
 but whom he was equally bound to pay ;
 all his payments run from the month of
 April, and scarcely any benefit arose to
 himself from the representations before the
 following winter. This, together with the
 forming of a new wardrobe, and the
 enormous daily expences, amounting almost
 to half the possible produce of the play-
 house, and which could not be reduced
 before experience had indicated the means,
 had caused him a considerable loss ; though
 not much greater than the yearly expences
 upon the French Play at the same thea-
 tre, if all had been put into the account.
 It was however very probable that the
 remaining

remaining five years of his privilege might have made this good; and his tradesmen were very reasonable people, and willing to wait his time; but one among them having unexpectedly attacked him in a manner that rendered it impossible for him to attend to his business,* the performers took this occasion to have his intended establishment of an independent stage put into execution sooner than he intended. A new privilege was obtained for them; and besides the advantages granted to the first institution, they had a present from the King of twelve thousand pounds, of which the interest was

* Mr. Riffel might have come off perhaps very ill, had not his brother in law, Mr. Darelli, had the generosity to interpose, and become responsible himself to the Creditors.

to make up for the daily expences, and the whole yearly income to be divided into twenty seven lots; of which every one among the first performers had at least one, and the others in proportion to their merit and services.

Two lots were excepted; one as a salary for a secretary, who should receive the pieces that were presented for the stage, and take care of the records of the committee; the other was reserved for Mr. Ristel, to whom the King had also granted a retreat from his office of Librarian, with the benefit of his salary as a pension.

The

The Committee consists of the following members :

The Secretary Mr. Sparrshoeld, a young gentleman of a distinguished literary reputation.

Messrs. Debroen, Tellerstedt, Uttini, Schylander, Algren, and Bioern;* observing among themselves the same order as the dates of their engagements in the first institution.

Mrs. Marcadet and Miss Loef, two celebrated actresses, one for her talents and the other for her beauty. Miss Neuman,

* Mr. Bioern is author of several plays, both for this stage and for that of Mr. Stenborg, which have had a remarkable success.

Mrs.

Mrs. Loeffborg, Miss Goetz, and Miss Frank, are remarkable for both, in different degrees.

One Mr. Hiortberg, yet very young, promises to be an actor of the first merit.

The benefits for the authors are the same as from the first institution.

Besides the Royal Theatres, there is still that of Mr. Stenborg, greatly reformed to its advantage by the son, Mr. Charles Stenborg already mentioned. Here is now the place for Comic Operas, among which Zemir and Azor, Arsene, and Lucile, are translated from the French by Mrs. Lengren, a lady of eminent literary

literary merit, and have formerly been represented at the Court-Theatre, as well as Gripon and Martin translated by Baron Manderstroem, and Alexis by Mr. Stenborg himself.

C H A P.

C H A P T E R XXIV.

THE Swedish language is derived from the Gothic; which, together with the Teutonic, has its origin in the language of the old Scytes. The Gothic dialect, having passed through the almost uninhabited Northern regions, to Sweden and Denmark, has been less altered from its primitive source; but the Teutonic, in passing through the populous countries submitted to antient Grece, has borrowed from their language the termination of the verbs, and the articles before the nouns, both still preserved in the modern German.

German, and the latter was transplanted into the English language by the Saxons.

Thus the Swedish and Danish, which are almost the same, have the article at the end of the nouns, as is common in the most antient languages; instead of which the moderns place it at the beginning; for example, in the word *man*, which is of the same signification in Swedish and German as in English, when it is used with the definitive article, as *the man*, in English, it is *der man* in the German, but *mannen* in the Swedish.

As to the verbs, a great number have the same signification in the three languages; but the Swedish has preserved

the antient termination in *a*, where the Germans have adopted the Greek *n*; as for example, *give* in English, is *giva* in Swedish, *geben* in German.

The Swedish is the most sonorous, though not in all respects the most poetical language of the three. The northern nations however have been so fond of poetry, that the fountains of all their antient history are poems or songs, in verses of five, six, or seven syllables; and the word *scald*; signifies historian as well as poet. Out of these songs, composed on every memorable occasion, there are preserved a great number in the quotations of the historians who lived in the ninth and tenth centuries; and they are such

as will bear comparison with the poetical productions of any age or country.

The introduction of the christian system turned the attention of the learned to other subjects; and the poetical productions of the middle age, though still the principal fountain of the Swedish history for those times, are far beneath the antient songs in poetical merit.

The genius of the seventeenth century, which spread a new light over all Europe, exerted itself also in Sweden. George Stiernhielm, produced in the glorious reign of Gustavus Adolphus, was the first eminent mathematician, and the first poet of his country. One of his poems, en-

titled *Hercules*, had a compliment paid it by King Carolus Gustavus, which I think was very seldom bestowed on a poem, especially by such an active character as that Monarch. Having heard it read from the beginning to the end without interruption, he only said, "It is pity that it is not longer."

The poetical productions of Count Lindshoeld, Dahlstierna, and Count Gyllenborg, under the reigns of Charles XI. and his famous son, are so many monuments of genius and good taste; but too few to be compared with those of the celebrated Dalin, who may be looked upon as the founder of Sweden's literary glory.

Having

Having by his writings opened to himself the way to the honour of being chosen by the Representatives of the nation to instruct the Prince Royal, now King of Sweden, his literary as well as personal merit gained him so much the esteem and favour of the late Queen, that we may not be much mistaken in ascribing to his influence the establishment of the Royal Academy of Belles Lettres, which, in its first institution, had the cultivation of the language, and the encouragement of literary talents, for its principal object, and of which Dalin was himself the first Secretary.

This Society may, as well in respect to the Members of which it was composed,

as to the authors it has encouraged, be considered as the first seed plot to the eminent talents in that line, which have since shone forth under the influence and example of Gustavus III.

But this institution having no other fund for the prizes than the generosity of the Queen, all would have ceased at her death, if her son had not taken her establishment under his protection, and furnished it not only with the means of distributing several prizes every year, but also with pensions for several of the Members.

But from this original institution the King has separated the culture of the
Swedish

Swedish language; which is now the object of a separate new foundation under the name of the Swedish Academy, which is provided with pensions and funds for several annual prizes.

By way of reparation, the sphere of the other establishment has been extended to foreign literature, Egyptian, Greek, and Roman antiquities; the emblematic science; and the superintendency of medals, inscriptions, and all public monuments in the kingdom. The number of Members has been fixed to fifty; there being sixteen foreign, fourteen honorary, and twenty ordinary or professed men of letters.

In the first mentioned class, there have been, to my knowledge, no more than four as yet appointed, viz.

The Cardinal of Bernis, French Ambassador at Rome.

The Duke of Nivernois, Lord of the Bed Chamber to the King of France.

P. F. Suhm, Privy Counsellor to the King of Denmark.

M. Pallas, Professor of the Imperial Academy at Petersburg.

All of literary merit too well known to need further mention here.

In the number of Honorary Members, were lately their Excellencies Count Hoepken and Count Charles Frederick Scheffer; the remaining are:

His Excellency Baron Frederic Sparre, Senator of the kingdom, and Knight of the Order of Seraphim, already mentioned.

His Excellency Baron Ranmel, Senator, Knight, and Commander of the Polar Star. His elegant stile, and his worthy and amiable character, are equally known in the political world.

His Excellency Count Oxenstierna, Senator,

nator, Prime Minister, and High Marshal of the Queen's Court, Knight and Commander of the Polar Star; known in the literary world for his immortal Ode upon the death of Gustavus Adolphus, Roxane, a comedy, and several other pieces of less extent but equal merit.

His Excellency Count Duben, Senator, Minister of State, and Commander of the Order of Seraphim. His knowledge in the science of medals, drawings, &c. has entitled him to a place in the Academy,

Doctor van Troil, Archbishop of the kingdom, and Commander of the Polar Star. Author of the Voyage to Iceland,
and

and very well versed in the antiquities of Sweden.

Baron Lejonhufvud, President, and Commander of the Polar Star. He is of well-known merit in the belles lettres.

Baron Adlercrantz, who has the superintendency of public buildings, &c. Commander of the Polar Star, is possessed of a vast knowledge in antiquities, especially those belonging to his science.

Mr. Math. Benzelftierna, Secretary of State and Commander of the Polar Star; remarkably well versed in history.

Count

Count Gyllenborg, Knight of the Polar Star; grandson to the poet already mentioned, and himself the Prince of Poets in Sweden. Besides several pieces of fugitive poetry, and a work entitled *The Contempt of the World*, which first established his reputation, he is the author of the dramatic piece of *Birger Jarl*, already mentioned, a tragedy entitled *Sune Jarl*, represented both at Court and on the new Swedish stage; and a *Poem* in twelve cantos, upon the victorious passage over the Belts and the siege of Copenhagen by Carolus Gustavus King of Sweden. An equal elegance of stile and purity of language are the least merits of his work. His love for literature is such, that though
 son

son and grandson to Senators of the kingdom, and maternal uncle to the present Count Oxenstierna, he has ever preferred his literary occupations to honours for which he seemed to be destined both by birth and capacity.

Mr. Sten Piper, Marshal of the Court and Knight of the Polar Star, is known for his translations from Tacitus, and great learning in belles letters.

Baron Schultz van Ascheraden, Chamberlain and Minister Plenipotentiary, &c. is one of the most elegant modern writers in the Latin language.

Doctor Olave Celfius, Bishop of Lund,
and

and Commander of the Polar Star, has written the history of Gustavus Vasa and his son King Ericus XIV*. as well as an Ecclesiastical History of Sweden.

The Ordinary Members are:

Mr. J. G. Lilliestrale, Knight of the Polar Star, and formerly Chief Justice of the Kingdom, has a great knowledge of English and French Literature, and is author of several Swedish poems and translations.

Mr. Botin, Knight of the Polar Star, author of a much admired History of the Swedish people, down to the reign of Gustavus Vasa.

* Translated into French by Mr. Genet.

Mr.

Mr. J. Elers, Knight of the Polar Star, formerly one of the most remarkable Swedish Poets; but has since had too great a part in public affairs, to leave himself to his inclination and skill in the literary line.

Mr. Schoenberg, Knight of the Polar Star, and Historiographer of the Kingdom.

Mr. Melanderhielm, Knight of the Polar Star; though a more celebrated Mathematician, he has also a remarkable knowledge in belles lettres.

Mr. Rosenstein, Knight of the Polar
Star,

Star, already mentioned in the fourth chapter.

Mr. B. Ferner, Knight of the Polar Star; he succeeded formerly to Messrs. Dalin and Klingenskierna, in the instruction of the Prince Royal, now King of Sweden.

Mr. J. van Engeström, Knight of the Polar Star, one of the first rank among the learned in Numismatics and Inscriptions.

Mr. S. Sernhoeld, Secretary in the King's Chancery, and remarkable among the learned in Literary History.

Mr.

Mr. C. J. Strand, Secretary and Custos of the Archives of the Kingdom, remarkable for an extensive knowledge in the history of his country.

Mr. G. Adlerbeth, Knight of the Polar Star, Antiquarian of the Kingdom, and Perpetual Secretary in the Academy of Belles Lettres; besides his skill in the sciences belonging to his place, he is also one of the most remarkable Swedish Poets, and author of several dramatic pieces, already mentioned.

Mr. A. F. Ristel, lately Librarian to his Majesty; he had before obtained four prizes from the Academy, viz. two gold medals, for a poem upon

the Poetic Art, and an Ode upon Conscience; and two silver ones, for an Ode upon Firmness of Mind, and a translation of several speeches in Salust; besides another prize of a gold medal, from the Royal Society of Gothenburg, for a poem on the Revolution 1772.

Mr. J. H. Liden, Professor, and a learned of the first class in the Literary History of Sweden. He has made a present of his library to the University of Upsal, together with funds for the pay of a Librarian.

Mr. J. Muhrberg, Director of the Cathedral School at Stockholm, and one of the best grammarians of the Swedish language;

language; also known for his tragedy of *Athalia*.

Mr. J. Hallenberg, Historiographer of the Kingdom, has already published, in the Swedish language, three volumes of an *Universal History*; and is now, by the King's command, at work with the *History of Gustavus Adolphus*.

Mr. C. G. Nordin, Dean, and Historiographer of the Royal Orders. He is also about composing a *Diplomatical History of Sweden*.

Mr. F. J. Neikter, Professor of Eloquence at Upsal.

Mr. Porthan, Profeffor of Eloquence
in the Univerfity of Abo.

Mr. Eberhard, Profeffor of the Ori-
ental Languages.

All Members prefent in the capital,
meet once a week in the Rotunda of
the old Royal Palace; where they have
alfo their public meetings for the diftri-
bution of prizes, and the reception of
new Members. The regulations are
much the fame as for the Academy of
Infcriptions and Belles Lettres at Paris.

Thofe of the new Swedifh Academy
for the culture of the language, are alfo
very nearly formed upon the model of
the

the French Academy for the same purpose ; except, that the number of the Members is only eighteen, instead of forty.

The late Senators, Count Hoepken, and Count Charles Frederick Scheffer, had also the first places in this institution. The place of the latter is already filled up, by the choice of the Academy with the approbation of the King, which is always required in both Academies.

Count Scheffer had for his successor Mr. Clewberg, his Majesty's Secretary, having the direction of the Opera, &c. He had made himself eminent in the literary line, by a poem on the me-

mory of the late Queen Dowager. He is also the author of a dramatic prologue to the opera of *Atys*, represented at the King's return from his tour into Italy and France; a divertissement on the 19th of August, in memory of the Revolution; and the third act of the opera *ANDROMACHE*, which, by his Majesty's orders, was to be represented in such a hurry, that he was obliged to divide the three acts, between Mr. Kellgren, Mr. Ristel, and himself.

Doctor Celsius, already mentioned in the account given of the other Academy; I don't know whether it was the style of his historical works, or his poem entitled

titled *Gustavus Vasa*, which prepared him a place in this latter establishment.

Mr. Kellgren, Secretary to his Majesty; He was early known by some admired satyrical pieces of poetry. He afterwards obtained two great prizes from the former Academy; and his poem on the Graces, under the names of three beauties of the Court already mentioned, might have deserved a still greater reward. His dramatical works have confirmed his reputation as one of the first Poets of Sweden.

His Excellency Count Hermanfon, Senator, and Knight of the Royal Order of Seraphim; he was, under the for-

mer reign, one of the most admired writers in the political line.

Doctor Wingord, Bishop of Gothenburg, and Knight of the Polar Star, is reputed one of the most eloquent and pathetic preachers: his funeral sermon on the late Queen Dowager, and his discourse at the opening of the Diet 1786, abound with a delicacy of expression, equal to that of the subject; which is saying a great deal.

His Excellency Count Axel Fersen, often mentioned before. The Swedish language has seldom had a greater force than in his speeches in the House of Nobles,

His

His Excellency Count Oxenstierna,
Member of the former Academy.

Mr. Adlerbeth, Secretary of the same
Academy.

Mr. Botin, also mentioned among the
Members of the former Academy.

Mr. Rosenstein, Perpetual Secretary
of the Swedish Academy, is already
known to the reader.

Mr. Schröderheim, Secretary of State,
&c. already mentioned. Besides the most
distinguished talents in his office, he is
also known in the literary world by his
discourse

discourse in memory of the late Senator
and High Marshal Count Lieven.

Count Gyllenborg, mentioned in the account of the former Academy,

Baron Armfelt, First Gentleman or Lord of the Bed Chamber, and Knight of the Royal Order of the Elephant, has given proofs that he is very able to shine in the literary sphere, if his employments at Court and in the army left any part of his time at his own disposal.

Mr. Nordin, already mentioned in the former Academy.

Mr. Leopold, Secretary to his Majesty,
and

and present Librarian. His Erotic Odes and a number of fugitive pieces had acquired him great reputation. He is now employed in finishing a tragedy, which, I am told, will do as much honour to his country as to the talents of the author.

Mr. Muhrberg, also of the Academy of Belles Lettres.

Mr. Sjoeborg, a young poet, elected a Member after having obtained two prizes.

With these eighteen, the King himself makes commonly the nineteenth; as his Majesty, when in town, seldom misses the

the meetings of this Society, any more than those of the Academy of Belles Lettres.

The room for Ordinary Sessions, once a week, is in the King's Palace. But their solemn meetings commonly take place in the Upper Hall of the Royal Exchange, which is also used for an Assembly-Room, as already mentioned.

The transactions of this Society will be very interesting, as it is the duty of one of the Members, every year by turns, to celebrate the memory of some illustrious person of the country, by a public speech at their general meeting in December, on the birth-day of Gustavus

tavus Adolphus. Medals struck by the Academy of Belles-Lettres, in remembrance of the same person, are also distributed on the occasion.

Besides the poets who have a place in this or the other Academy, there are several of distinguished talents, among whom some are too remarkable to be passed over in silence.

One is Mr. Torild, who despises all kind of poetry that is not in the stile of Ossian. He has himself written in the same taste, and his poem entitled *The Passion* might be taken for a production of that lofty genius he has chosen for his model.

Mr. Lidner

Mr. Lidner has already printed two volumes of his works, in which there is a great deal of originality. His poem on the death of the Countess Spastara endeavouring to save her child out of the flames, and that on the Last Judgment, abound in sublime ideas. One would only wish for more correctness in the style. His *Medea* is not yet represented, and his tragedy entitled *Christina Gyllenstierna* is expected with impatience. The heroine of this piece was the consort of Steno Sture, Administrator of the Kingdom of Sweden, killed in a battle against the Danes. His widow had the courage to oppose the approaching enemy, and defended the capital for a long time against Christiernus II. and did not give it up before

fore he had granted to the Swedes a peace on very honourable conditions, which however he no longer observed, than till it was in his power to break them.

C H A P.

CHAPTER XXV.

AS in the course of this work there have been mentioned several Knights and Commanders of the Royal Orders in Sweden, a particular account of them may not be disagreeable to the reader.

They are for the present four; viz. the Order of Seraphim; that of the Sword, or the Military Order; that of the Polar Star; and the Order of Vasa.

The Royal Order of Seraphim is the most antient as well as the most honourable. This Order is mentioned and described

described in Swedish acts so far back as the thirteenth century. It is uncertain whether it be of Swedish institution, or has been introduced in that country with the many strangers of birth and distinction who frequented the Court of King Magnus Birgerfson, on occasion of the splendid tournaments given by that magnificent Prince; to whose judicious choice and engaging manners Sweden is indebted for many illustrious foreign families established in that country.

During the union which followed between the three northern kingdoms under one government, this Order fell into disuse. The title of *Knight* remained always the principal distinction among the nobles; the

ornament of a *gold chain* was also peculiar to the Knights; but these chains were made in different manners; the original form was not restored before the year 1748, when King Fredericus re-established this antient Order as well as that of the sword.

The mark of the Order of Seraphim is a white Roman cross in the form of a star, and four heads of Seraphs, round a light-blue globe which occupies the middle of the cross, and is marked in white with the letters I. H. S. initials of the words *Iesus Hominum Salvator*, which is the motto of the Order.

This Star is worn embroidered upon
the

the left breast on the coat, and on the same side of the mantle; and also enamelled at the ends of a large light blue ribbon, passed over the shoulder from the right side to the left.

On the festivals of the Order, such as the Monday preceding the Advent, and the 28th of April every year, the enamelled star is worn about the neck in a chain which is also enamelled, and composed of heads of Seraphs between the double crosses of Jerusalem, in gold and white.

The Ceremonial Dress or Habit of the Order, is in the old Spanish fashion, all of white satin, and edged with black

lace. The round hat and the shoes are also of satin.

The duty of the Knights is to defend orphans and widows, take care of the sick and poor, with other charitable works of the same kind. Wherefore the hospitals, lazarettos, and other such institutions are always under the immediate inspection of the Chancellor of this Order; and all the Members are bound to give a certain sum for such purposes.

The number of the Knights is limited to twenty four, not comprehending the King of Sweden, Grand Master of the Order, and the Princes of the Royal Family, who are all created at their birth.

According

According to the statutes, none below the rank of a Lieutenant-General can be admitted a Member of the Order.

The present King of Sweden has established one condition more, viz. an uninterrupted noble descent of at least four generations, both from father and mother.

As there are several eminent personages in Sweden, who, by their own merit, have raised themselves to the dignity of Counts and Barons; and as even the antient Nobility have not been very scrupulous, in these latter times, to impart the splendor of their name in exchange for a rich inheritance for their children, by marriages into the families

of merchants, there are several Members of the Senate excluded from this honor. On the great promotion, by occasion of the birth of the King's second son, the Senator Baron Bunge was by the date of his election, as well as by his personal merit, perhaps the most entitled to this honour; and as the King could not avoid granting him some share in the Royal favours which were distributed, his Majesty preferred making him a Count, rather than to deviate from the new-established plan.

The King has since found means to elude his own regulation, in favour of some persons of less antient birth, but whom his Majesty was yet desirous of
favouring

favouring with the Blue Ribbon, the highest point of ambition in Sweden.

For this purpose has been instituted the dignity of Commanders of all the Royal Orders. They wear in their common dress the same marks as the Knights of Sera-
phim, but are not allowed the Chain or Collar of the Order on festivals.

This new degree was offered to his Excellency Count Bunge; but with the greatest protestations of gratitude for the honour intended him, he begged to be excused the acceptance of it.

Those who as yet are invested with this dignity, are, to my knowledge, only

their Excellencies Baron Lilljencrantz and
Baron Duben.

The Order of the Sword is also very
antient in Sweden. It was introduced
perhaps from Livonia and Prussia, where
this Order has been very famous.

King Ericus XIV. the son of Gustavus
Vasa, made an attempt to restore this
Order to its former consideration; but the
unhappy fate of this King brought it again
into neglect.

King Fredericus was more successful;
and the admission into this Order is now
looked on as the highest reward for mi-
litary merit,

There

There were formerly only two classes, Knights and Commanders. The present King has separated the last into two degrees; Commanders with the Great Cross or Star, and those who wear only the Ribbon. Both are superior to the Knights, who bear only the Star on a small ribbon in the button-hole.

The Star is a Grecian cross with four crowns in the intervals, around a blue globe marked with a golden sword standing upright, the point in a garland of laurels, with the motto *Pro Rege et Patria*.

The great Star on the left breast is embroidered in silver; that on the Ribbon,

as well as on the Collar of Ceremony, is enamelled in white and gold; the Collar or Chain the same.

The Habit of Ceremony is in the Spanish custom, but with a long training mantle. The whole of light-blue velvet, lined with white fatten.

The number in all the classes is unlimited, as it certainly ought to be, in a nation distinguished for military merit.

The third Order, a new institution of King Fredericus, is that of the Polar Star; destined for persons of eminent merit in the political, civil, and literary line.

The

The Star or mark of the Order is a white enamelled Roman Cross, in the middle of which is a blue globe, with a gold star, and motto, *Nescit occasum*, in allusion to the polar star, which is always at the same height. The globe is surrounded with four golden Royal crowns, in the intervals of the cross.

In this Order there are but two classes, Knights and Commanders. The former wear the Star on a black ribbon in the button hole; the latter on a large black ribbon round the neck. The Commanders have also a large Star, embroidered in silver on the left breast, on their coat as well as mantle.

The

The dress on festivals is Spanish, with a long mantle; the whole of crimson velvet lined with white satin. The collar is composed of stars between the double cypher of the institutor, all enamelled in white, blue, and gold.

The number of the Commanders is limited to twenty-four, and that of the Knights to forty-eight.

To these Royal Orders King Gustavus has added one more, the Order of Vasa, instituted in memory of the great founder of his race as well as predecessor upon the Swedish throne, Gustavus I. of the noble family of Vasa.

All the antient nobility of Sweden were in the same case with the old Romans, having no other profession than that of agriculture, and no other obligation than the defence of their country. Those who lived in the Court, and attended on the King, were looked upon as an inferior class, in respect to those who confined themselves within their own families, and took care of their private affairs. One may therefore say that the most antient nobility in Sweden owe their rise to agriculture. The estate formerly cultivated by the ancestors of the Vafas, and which still bears their name, is situated in the province of Uplandia, near the road which leads from Stockholm to Nortelge; and is now in the possession
of

of Colonel Lilljehorn, by his marriage with the daughter of the late Baron Danckwart of Sigridsholm.

To encourage so noble a profession, King Gustavus, on the festivity of his coronation, instituted this Order; and it is in consequence given to those among the Nobility and Gentry who live on their estates, and by distinguishing themselves in the different branches of rural oeconomy, give a useful example to others, who are less provided with the means of making new experiments for encreasing the value of lands; and extending the knowledge of improvements invented in other countries.

Great

Great artists may also aspire to the honour of this Order. The late Mr. Liungberger, a celebrated engraver of medals, and Mr. Sergel, an eminent sculptor, have already been encouraged with that flattering distinction.

The marks of this Order are the arms of the Royal Family of Vasa, in gold, within an oblong red circle, inscribed in gold with the name of King Gustavus III. institutor of the Order.

It is attached to a ribbon of a mineral green, which the Knights wear round the neck, and the Commanders over the right shoulder to the left side. These latter wear also a large Star embroidered in
silver

silver on their coats and mantles, on the left breast.

The Habit of Ceremony is green velvet lined with white satin, made in the same manner as those of the Orders of the Sword and the Polar Star.

The number of the Knights is limited to fifty, and that of the Commanders to twelve, though I never knew any more than four to have been appointed, viz. the late Baron Degeer, father to the present Baron Charles Degeer; Baron Ramel of Maltesholm, father to his Excellency Baron Ramel; the General Baron Duval, now Knight of the Order of Seraphim; and Baron Claes Alstroemer.

The

The number of the Knights is completed, and there are still more than fifty candidates at every vacancy.

The Knights of the Order of Seraphim have a right to wear the marks of all the others, except that of Vasa. The King himself, and the Chancellor of the Royal Orders, are the only Knights of Seraphim who are entitled to the marks of the Order of Vasa, and they commonly wear it on a small ribbon in the button hole.

Besides the Habit of Great Ceremony, there is another made in the ordinary Swedish custom, and used on Gala days,

and other solemn occasions that have no relation to the Royal Orders.

For the three inferior Orders, the colours are the same as in their dress of ceremony before mentioned; but for the Knights of Seraphim, it is purple velvet with gold, and has the most magnificent appearance.

On such occasions, the Princes of the Royal Family have a particular dress, white and silver, made in the old Burgundic custom.

Besides the Orders already mentioned, there was an Order of great note 150 years

years ago, instituted by Queen Christina, daughter of the great Gustavus Adolphus. This Order was known under the name of Amaranth, and is still preserved in a society of private institution, which assembles once a fortnight for dancing and other innocent amusements. It was said the King had an intention to re-establish this Order upon new principles, among which that of the first consideration was; that every person who should be admitted into the fraternity must have a certain number of noble ancestors. The fair sex could also receive this honour on the same conditions. This might have afforded a pretext for decorating persons who had no merit of their own. But
after

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after the breach between the King and the Nobles, this project, if there was any, has been laid aside, and will not probably be revived.

F I N I



